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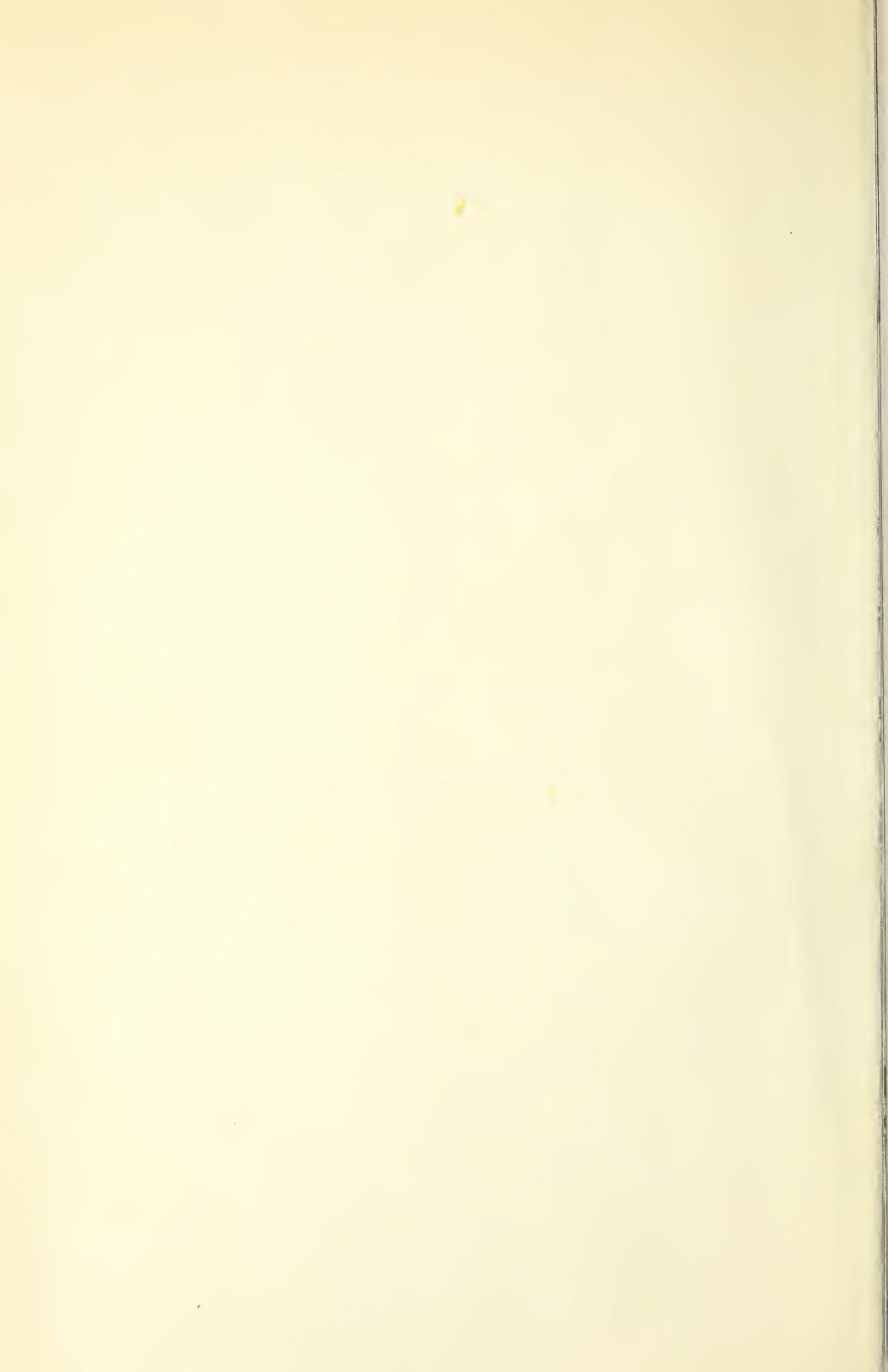
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ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

OF

GREATER  
RIDGEWOOD

~~n.y.~~  
TOGETHER WITH

Brief Sketches of Its Industries, Organizations and  
Biographical Sketches of Some of  
Its Prominent Men

V. I

VOLUME I

By GEORGE SCHUBEL

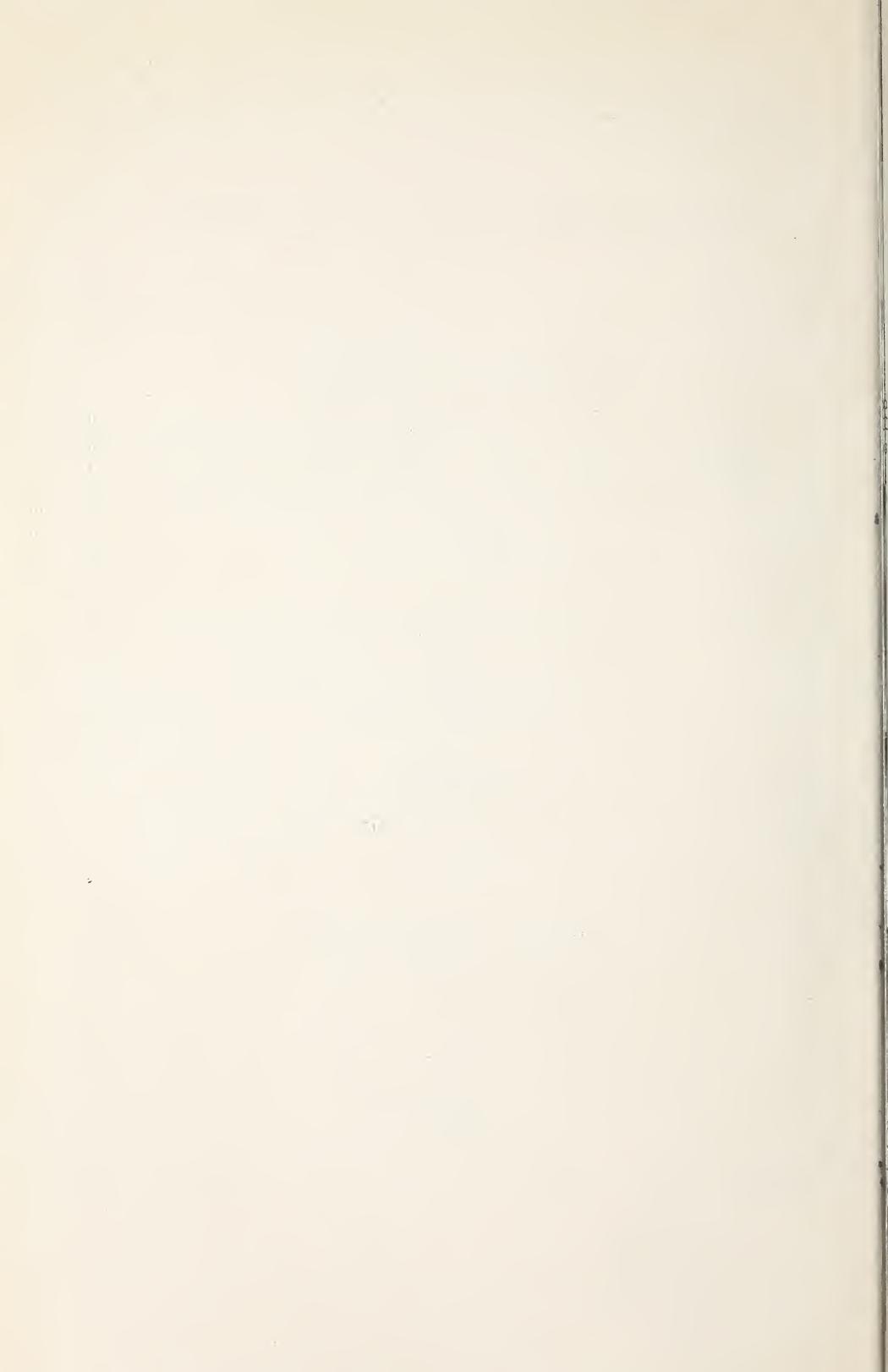
Editor of the *Ridgewood Times*

Published by

Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Company

1913





## INTRODUCTION

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THE story of the steady growth and development of what is now known as Greater Ridgewood is like the story of a modern fairy tale. Within the incredible short space of half a score of years, hundreds upon hundreds of houses have been built, making the development and progress of our section at once the wonder and admiration of the Greater City.

The upbuilding has all been done in such a normal and quiet way that no one outside the immediate zone of development was aware of the transformation that was taking place. From an insignificant hamlet of worked-out farms and scattered homes on the Queens side, the section became transformed into a wide-awake, energetic community and, like modern Aladdins, the people of our section, by their industry, thrift and civic pride, have caused it to become, to all apparent purposes, a city within a city.

With this remarkable change has come about a change, of course, in the life and activities of the section; old farms and old landmarks are disappearing, and in their stead blocks upon blocks of residential houses are appearing, as if by magic, from the ground, and newcomers are swarming into them as fast as they are ready for occupancy.

The large and wholesome influx of thrifty Germans into the Greater Ridgewood section from lower Brooklyn and New York, beginning in the early nineties and continuing unabated up to the present day, is one of the phenomena of shifting population that has never been paralleled in any section and is a causative factor in the changes that have come about. With this record is also the wholesome record of large families of healthy children, born of sturdy parents and producing a citizenship that has pushed Greater Ridgewood to the forefront of the sections composing the Greater City of New York, making it second to none in energy, thriftiness, cleanliness, progressiveness and civic pride. The children of German parents in America have always proved to be valuable citizens, exercising civic virtue, independence in political thinking, patriotism and thrift, and those in Greater Ridgewood are demonstrating that they are no exception to this rule.

But in this gigantic change of population and landmarks, the old familiar faces are disappearing and old bits of interesting local history of the early days are becoming forgotten lore. The lines, too, that distinguished the once various isolated sections that now compose Greater Ridgewood are daily becoming more and more obliterated and, as Armbuster says: "the very borough line can only be traced on paper now." It is not so long ago that a stranger traveling from the Wyckoff Avenue terminal into the Queensboro part of our section was able to observe distinctly the boundaries of the different settlements such as Ridge-

wood Heights, Germania Heights, East Williamsburg, Metropolitan, Wyckoff Heights, St. James' Park, Evergreen, Glendale, Stierville and Cypress Hills. Now it is difficult, even for our old settlers, to properly define the boundary lines and to say that here or there the boundary of a given one of the old sections begins or ends.

That section of Greater Ridgewood known as St. James' Park has entirely lost its former familiar scenic beauty. The old landmarks and the beautiful shade trees on Fresh Pond road, Hancock street, Elm avenue, Sherman street, Grant street, Slocum street and other streets in the vicinity are all almost all gone and in their places are the extensive rows of two, six and eight-family houses whose builders are referred to in another chapter.

Evergreen, Glendale, Stierville, Metropolitan and the other older sections are undergoing similar transformation; their names and identity are becoming obliterated and out of these, with all their sweet memories, is rising mightily the "Greater Ridgewood" of our own day and of the days to come.

And who, among those of us living today, can tell of the future of this consolidated and closely united section? Who can tell what those will see who read these pages fifty or a hundred years hence? In a few years more we will witness changes still more remarkable. Situated, as our section is, in a stragie position, directly on the border line of two important boroughs, with perfect natural advantages and topographically central from all parts of the Greater City of New York, and with the people noted for their thrift, energy and progressiveness, it cannot help but become the richest, busiest and most important business and commercial center of the entire city.

With fondest hopes for the hastened coming of this magnifieent day in Greater Ridgewood's history and with a sincere desire to perpetuate the history of the past and the present, in order that those who will come after and enjoy its blessings will be reminded of those who went before and made their way possible, the author submits this present volume, duly acknowledging herewith his appreciation of the assistance and interest rendered by the staff of the Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Company and by his many friends throughout the section.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Schubel". The signature is fluid and expressive, with a long, sweeping underline at the end.

September 1st, 1912.

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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THERE is good reason why an authorized and complete History of the growth and development of Greater Ridgewood and its prominent men should be written and find its place in the permanent history of our section. Those living here all know, in a general way, the great strides in point of growth and population of the Greater Ridgewood section, but few of the newcomers know anything at all about the formative period or the early days of the section, nor about the men who helped to establish its prestige and make it known. With this point in view, Mr. Schubel, editor of the Ridgewood Times, undertook the task of writing a volume that, we believe, will prove to be a useful, interesting and inspiring study for young and old of Greater Ridgewood and vicinity, from its early days up to the present time, and that will find a permanent place, we hope, in the homes of the people of the Greater Ridgewood section.

The book will be found exhaustive in detail and comprehensive in its scope. Mr. Schubel is most prominently identified with the political, social and civic life of the section and, coupling these advantages with his command of facilities and material as editor and president of the Ridgewood Times, all most fortunately fitted him for the present and for the supplementary volume now in press. It is needless to say that the author has been painstaking in his efforts and his work constitutes a labor of love extending over several years. Important facts, data, photographs and exclusive material of local interest are contained in the present volume and, outside of their publication in the Ridgewood Times, will never again appear in print.

The two volumes, including sketches of the section's local industries, churches, organizations and prominent men, have been written in a fascinating, narrative style, at the same time preserving that dignified quality which we look for in a serious historical and biographical work to be placed in the library as a permanent record of the life and achievements of those men who deserve to be remembered and honored in the days when this book will be the only record of their having lived and labored among us.



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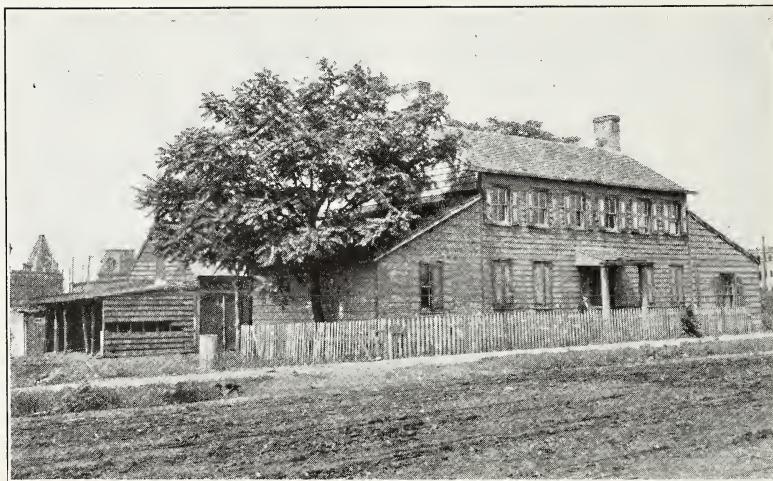
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**PART I**  
**GENERAL INTRODUCTORY**  
**GREATER RIDGEWOOD PAST AND PRESENT**



#### THE OLD BISCHOFF HOMESTEAD

Which stood on the Bischoff Farm, (part of the Wyckoff Estate), on Cypress Avenue, near Palmetto Street. The house was torn down in 1912, to make room for the row of apartment houses erected by Batter & Stier, Inc

## CHAPTER I

### ORIGIN OF THE NAME " RIDGEWOOD "

Like the wonderful Topsy in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Greater Ridgewood seems "just to have grown up" in a normal and steady way for many years, without any authoritative record of the origin of its name. From the most authoritative sources, it seems that the name "Ridgewood" was originally applied to the territory in Kings County beginning at about Hamburg Avenue and extending to what is now the borough line of Kings and Queens Counties. As the population increased and new stretches of land were opened for real estate purposes across the borough line, the name "Ridgewood" persisted, despite the fact that here in this new territory, the officially established name was East Williamsburgh and the township name, "Town of Newtown." Even in later years, when this territory was parceled into building lots by speculators, who affixed names of their own invention to the parcels they developed, Ridgewood maintained its own. Names such as Germania Heights, St. James Park, Ridgewood Heights, Wyckoff Heights, Knickerbocker Heights and others, were coined to fall into disuse again, while the name "Ridgewood" survived, and, following a suggestion made by the writer in the "Ridgewood Times" in 1910, "Greater Ridgewood" became the popular, and later on, the recognized name, applying not only to the sections already here referred to, but to the sections that were formerly known as Evergreen, Glendale, Stierville, Fresh Pond, Metropolitan, Middle Village and Maspeth.

The original name of "Ridgewood"

was probably used to indicate the character of the territory to which it applied, since this section in the very early days was thickly wooded, and in early English records we find it referred to as "the Ridge," forming as it does part of the ridge or backbone of Long Island.

There are others who assert that the name is derived from Ridge Road, which was the name appearing in early deeds to designate what is now Wyckoff Avenue, and still others assert that the name is derived from the old reservoir on the Cypress Hills, established in 1850, which was at that time and is still officially called "Ridgewood Reservoir."

#### Ridgewood a Fitting Name

The name is a fitting one, appropriate in the beginning, because, as we said, it seems to have amply described the high, wooded ground that made this region such a popular and beautiful picnic place in the days gone by, and it is appropriate now, because Greater Ridgewood conveys the solidarity of interest and the unity, in a social, business and civic way that has come about as a result of the close upbuilding of the various small sections previously referred to, into one splendid large section, the population of which already exceeds by far the number of inhabitants of any other section in Queensboro, and whose characteristics in the way of thrift, energy and go-ahead-ness, coupled with its strategic position on the border line of two important boroughs, are making it the foremost section of any in the entire greater city of New York.

## HISTORY OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD

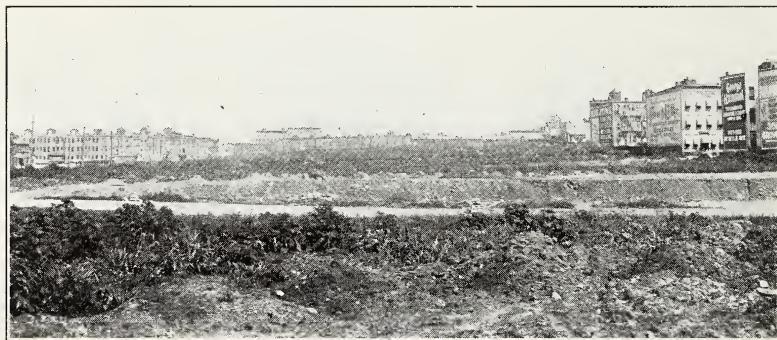
### Ridgewood a Proud Name

The following condensed editorial, relative to improved Ridgewood, written by the author in 1911, will give a concise idea of the proud conception held by the citizens of the section at the present time in regard to the success of their community.

"We have the proud distinction of having the fewest arrests, proportionate to population, of any other section.

"We have no cod-fish aristocracy in our section, living in fancy detached houses and unable to pay the butcher and grocer bill, but we have an intelligent class of laboring people, thrifty, honest; who keep their homes well ordered and clean, and care for the education and moral welfare of their children. Board of Health statistics disclose the proud fact that there are more births, proportionate to population, than in any other section of the Greater City. There are fewer deaths. Ridgewood is ideally located on high, sandy ground and those who come here

soon bear the marks of Ridgewood's good air upon their cheeks. We have the best location suitable for increased transit facilities and will make use of them when the time arrives that the city will take the transit question entirely out of the hands of the public corporations. A dozen car lines lead to the Ridgewood terminal. Ridgewood is strategically situated from a business and political viewpoint. Our section is the entrance to the biggest borough of the Greater City and must eventually become the busiest business center. We hold the balance of power politically and have an independent thinking class of voters that has already given politicians concern, to say nothing of the future. The largest part of the real estate activity of the city is in our section. At the present time, when building operations are almost at a standstill in other parts of the city, our builders are digging foundations and providing for thousands of desirable families to come."



PART OF WYCKOFF ESTATE, LOOKING WEST FROM MYRTLE AND CYPRESS AVENUES

Showing Putnam Avenue, Madison Street, Woodbine Street and Palmetto Street  
before these Streets were cut through

## CHAPTER II

### GREATER RIDGEWOOD'S EARLY DAYS

As previously stated, there is very little reference in the early records and writings of an historic character applying to what we now know as Greater Ridgewood, owing to the fact that it was, and remained until a late day, essentially an agricultural section, somewhat isolated from the original settlements at Newtown, Bushwick and Brooklyn, and with no direct or main roads of travel passing through it.

#### A Picturesque Country

However, we can well conceive our section to have been a beautiful and picturesque country in the days when the first Dutch and English pioneers glimpsed its hills and woodlands. Yet a primeval forest, the undisputed domain of the red man and the prowling beasts that roamed its lonely recesses, what daring imagination among these early settlers could have foreseen the transformation of our day and time?

Herds of graceful deer roved and fed in natural pastures; flocks of wild fowl haunted the streams and swamps adjacent to our region, and the rapacious wolf wandered here in search of prey.

Groups of bark-clad wigwams preceded the settlements of a later day. The Mespachtes tribe of Indians claimed as their home the entire region of what later became the Town of Newtown, a territory of some 16,800 acres, of which the greater part had been made arable and extremely valuable, and the Canarsie Indians claimed as their territory all the country extending from Canarsie to where the Mespachtes lands began.

#### Coming of White Settlers

Then came the white man. Through the inducement of the Dutch West Indies Company, colonization was encouraged, and in 1629, the first Dutch settlers settled on Long Island, forming the nucleus of what later became the settlement of Boswyck or Bushwick. At about the same time, English settlers came and settled in the Mespachtes country, forming a settlement which they called Mespachtes, an abbreviated name for Mespachtes, and which later became corrupted and changed in the name "Maspeth."

#### Maspeth Classic Ground

James Riker, referring to this settlement, wrote: "Maspeth is classic ground; in times past the nursery of poetry and genius. Here, in a sweetly rural, calm retreat, secure, secluded, was produced the clever poem of 'Rural Hours.' "

Maspeth became the country place of many opulent New York merchants, and the eminent statesman and ex-Governor, DeWitt Clinton, had his permanent residence here. Originally a community of Quakers, the place has scarcely a representative of this sect living here now.

From the ridge, in colonial days and until the farms disappeared, the eye beheld a beautiful panorama of rolling pastures, orchards, farms and the several settlements of the English and Dutch, the silvery winding streams of Mispachtes Kill or Newtown Creek and Bushwick Creek and their tributaries and small islands.

## HISTORY OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD

### **Evergreen Formerly South Williamsburgh**

The Evergreen section was settled in 1853, by an association that planned to found a new village here on the Cypress Hills Plank Road, to be known as South Williamsburgh. The place was laid out into five hundred lots and as many shares were issued to sell at \$150.00 each, but South Williamsburgh met with little success; the name, like that of other sections in the vicinity, was gradually changed to Ridgewood and was so called until a movement was inaugurated to call the section Evergreen, in order to distinguish it, so older natives say, from a Ridgewood out further on Long Island. Within recent years and since this, Ridgewood, L. I. was called Wantaugh, and the disposition was to again refer to Evergreen as Ridgewood, and it is now most popularly known as an integral part of Greater Ridgewood.

### **Middle Village**

Middle Village is historic in that the first Methodist Church erected on Long Island was established here. It also gained prominence in the early days as the location of Rey's Essence and Chocolate Factory.

### **Early Roads**

It was only as late as 1824, that a causeway and bridge was built over the salt meadows, permitting a shorter route from Newtown and Flushing to the Brooklyn ferries, and at a still later date, the Flushing Avenue extension of the Cripple Creek road to Brooklyn was established. Myrtle Avenue was only opened as a plank road in 1854, and a year later a horse car line was established running up to Broadway. Another horse car line from Grand Street, Williamsburgh, to Newtown, was established in 1860, and in 1867 the Bushwick Rail-

road Co. started the Bushwick Avenue horse car line from Grand Street ferry to Ridgewood Depot. These, together with all the other horse car lines in Brooklyn, were supplanted by trolley cars in 1894.

The few roads leading through our section as late as 1855, were: Cooper's Road, leading to the Fresh Ponds; the Fresh Pond Road, which is the oldest road; Wyckoff Avenue, Cypress Hills Plank Road; the Brooklyn and Newtown Turnpike Road—present Flushing Avenue, and the Myrtle Avenue and Jamaica Plank Road.

The right of way owned by the New York Connecting Railroad, and running between Wyckoff and Irving Avenues, is still a remnant of the original Manhattan Beach Railroad, which ran trains from the foot of Quay Street in Greenpoint to the ocean. The road was abandoned for passenger service when the trains were sent out from Hunter's Point, and it is now used only for the accommodation of the manufacturing enterprises located along its line. The company intends to reconstruct this line for passenger service, depressing the tracks and running trains by way of the Pennsylvania tubes to the Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan.

Its filthy and neglected condition at the present time has been repeatedly attacked in the Ridgewood Times.

### **Greater Ridgewood's Boundary Line**

The Greater Ridgewood of today, incorporating the respective sections already mentioned and including the older Ridgewood in Kings County, may be considered to embrace in Kings County the territory bounded by Flushing Avenue, Central Avenue, Evergreen Cemetery lines to the Queensboro line; in Queensboro the territory bounded by the Brooklyn Boro line, Flushing Avenue, Mount Olivet Avenue to Lutheran

Cemetery, Metropolitan Avenue, Woodhaven Avenue, Myrtle Avenue, following the lines of Forest Park and Cypress Hills and Evergreen Cemeteries to the Brooklyn Borough line. It embraces what were once the old farms of Wyckoff, Covert, Onderdonk, Way, Hulst, Denton, Ring, Edsall, Van Alst, Backus, Debevoise, Lahr, Bergen, Tompkins, Van Nostrand, Meyerrose, McCormick, Cooper, Snediker, Schoonmaker, Catherine Wyckoff, Stone, Vandervoort, Peter Meserole, Troutman, Stockholm, Suydam, Rathjen, Wagner, Brunjes, Kolyer, Dosher and Woodard.

#### County Line Disputed

One interesting feature connected with the early days of our section is that its ownership was a constant subject of legal dispute almost from the beginning of the settlements and lasting for over a century. Both the English of the Town of Newtown and the Dutch of Bushwick claimed the territory; the English by virtue of a deed obtained from the Indians and the Dutch by virtue of the land grants obtained from

their Governor. Time after time, efforts were made to adjust the dispute; committees were appointed on both sides, but with no satisfactory results until 1769, when the ridge territory was decided to be a part of the Town of Newtown and the boundary fixed at a point beginning "at the mouth of Mispat Kil, along the creek to the west side of Smith's Island, to, and along, a branch leading out of the creek to the pond, or hole of water, near the head of Schenck's mill pond, easterly to Arbitration Rock, which stood in a meadow lying opposite the house occupied in later years by Ann Onderdonk, a little west of Joseph Woodward's house, later owned by James Schoonmaker, and from said rock running south to a heap of stones with a stick planted in the center and known as Arbitration Heap" and thence on to territory defining the boundaries of New Lots and Flatbush.

#### Line Still Causes Trouble

However, even after the perplexing question of territorial lines was finally adjusted between these two towns, the



ONDERDONK AVENUE, LOOKING FROM ELM AVENUE, TOWARD OLD UNION LEAGUE BASEBALL GROUNDS

boundary line continued to cause and up to the present day is still causing no end of inconveniences and even trouble. Water, insurance and excise taxes are different in the two boroughs. A property owner on the Queens side of the boundary line is compelled to pay double the rate of insurance than that which his next-door neighbor must pay whose house is just over the boundary line. Some owners whose houses are divided by the boundary line must pay part of their taxes in Kings and part of them in Queens County. In a similar way, the Queens taxpayers are compelled to buy their water at exorbitant rates from a private monopoly operating from Elmhurst; the taxpayers across the boundary line in Brooklyn obtain their water from the city. Queens taxpayers have been forced to depend upon volunteer fire protection, while across the line city fire protection was provided. Politics in the Queens section were "raw" in contrast to those across the borough, and improvements were almost impossible to be secured. A Ridgewoodite could be singled out, in the early days, when sidewalks were an unknown quantity, by his habit of taking to the middle of the street to walk, and a common sight at the depot at Wyckoff Avenue where the flagstones and paved streets began, was to see pedestrians, natives as well as strangers, especially on Sundays, take out their handkerchiefs and brush the dust of the other side of the boundary line off their polished shoes.

All in all, it seemed as if the Queens section of Ridgewood, fairest and most promising of any in the city, had been made the step-child,—treated to cinders and ashes by the politicians—and yet, despite all these adverse conditions, it prospered wonderfully.

#### **Change Would Have Been Welcome**

There were times when the writer felt

constrained through the newspaper to advocate legislative action pointing toward a readjustment of the boundary line or an extension that would place it somewhere out among the dead ones in the cemeteries and allow the taxpayers on the Queens side to slip into the comforts and conveniences of the Brooklyn side.

#### **Trouble Being Removed**

However, conditions are changing for the better now. By dint of agitation on the part of our splendid local civic associations, to whom more specific reference is made later on, and by the fearless and independent attitude of the Ridgewood Times on all these questions, improvements have been secured, slowly but surely; streets and sidewalks are being paved. At the time of this writing, there is an excellent possibility that the selfish water monopoly known as the Citizens Water Supply Co., that has a monopoly on peddling water in the Queens section of Ridgewood and against which the civic associations and the Times have held ancient feud, may be bought up by the city; a taking-over extremely welcome to our taxpayers, provided, of course, that the transaction is accomplished through means of an honest condemnation commission that will cut down the purchase price to the actual value of the antiquated and rusty mains of this monopoly. Better fire protection is assured by virtue of the recent selection of two new sites by the City of New York in the Queens section of Greater Ridgewood. This action, in turn, will bring about lower insurance rates. Politics are improving and so, in each department of the life of our section, civic, political, social and administrative, improvements have come about until the boundary line is practically now only a figurative line as far as local, civic and business conditions are concerned.

### Some Old Cemeteries

In the vicinity of Knickerbocker Avenue, Irving Avenue, Palmetto Street and Putnam Avenue, on ground now occupied in part by the new Ridgewood or Bushwick High School, stood the Union Cemetery, which was opened in 1851 by the Grand Street First Protestant Methodist Church to supplant the old Union Cemetery of more than sixty years ago, which was bounded by Maujer, Stagg, Lorimer and Leonard streets. The new cemetery embraced ten acres. In 1897, the grounds were sold to Hy. Batterman, the remains being removed to Cedar Grove Cemetery and the property cut up into building lots.

The Cemetery of the Evergreens, occupying originally 112 acres, mostly in the Cypress Hills section of Kings County, was incorporated in 1849 and opened in 1851. By purchases the acreage has been increased to 270 acres.

The Most Holy Trinity Cemetery came later. It was laid out on land acquired by the Most Holy Trinity Church on Montrose Avenue, and is situated between the Cemetery of the Evergreens, along the tracks of the New York Connecting Railroad and Cemetery Lane, the Old Bushwick Road and the Queensboro Boundary Line, with a strip extending into Queensboro; covering a total of twenty-five acres.

The Cypress Hills Cemetery was incorporated in 1848 and opened for burial purposes in 1849.

### Old Street Names

Some of the early streets would hardly be recognizable now under their obsolete names.

Thus Wyckoff Avenue, prior to 1849, was called Ridge Road.

Hamburg Avenue was formerly Hamburg Street, and at a still earlier period Johnson Avenue.

Madison Street in part was once Ivy Street.

Putnam Avenue in part was once Jacob Street.

Metropolitan Avenue was formerly Jamaica Turnpike.

Jefferson Avenue includes what was formerly Vigilius Street, and still earlier John Street.

Gates Avenue includes what was formerly Magnolia Street.

Metropolitan Avenue Bridge was formerly called Master's Bridge.

Myrtle Avenue, from Broadway to Richmond Hill, was formerly known as Myrtle Avenue and Jamaica Plank Road. This avenue was originally known as Myrtle Street and extended only a short distance from the main road of the Brooklyn settlement. In 1835, as Myrtle Avenue, it was paved and graded and continued to Cripple Bush Road, then to Broadway in 1852, and in 1854, it was extended as a plank road to Richmond Hill and became known as the Myrtle Avenue and Jamaica Plank Road. In the same year, the Brooklyn City Railroad bought out the Myrtle Avenue stage line and ran horse cars to Broadway. Myrtle Avenue now extends from Fulton Street to Richmond Hill.

Troutman Street was formerly Madison Street.

Halsey Street includes what was formerly Margaretta Street.

Flushing Avenue has replaced Newtown Road or Turnpike.

Cypress Avenue includes what was known as the Williamsburgh and Cypress Hills Plank Road.

Catalpa Avenue was until recently Elm Avenue and is the Greek for the word Elm.

Seneca Avenue was formerly Covert Avenue.

Halleck Avenue was formerly Edsall Avenue.

Jefferson Avenue, between Wyckoff and Cypress Avenues, formerly North Street.

Hancock Street, between Wyckoff and Cypress Avenues, formerly Greene Street.

Wierfield Street, between Wyckoff and Cypress Avenues, formerly Willow Street.

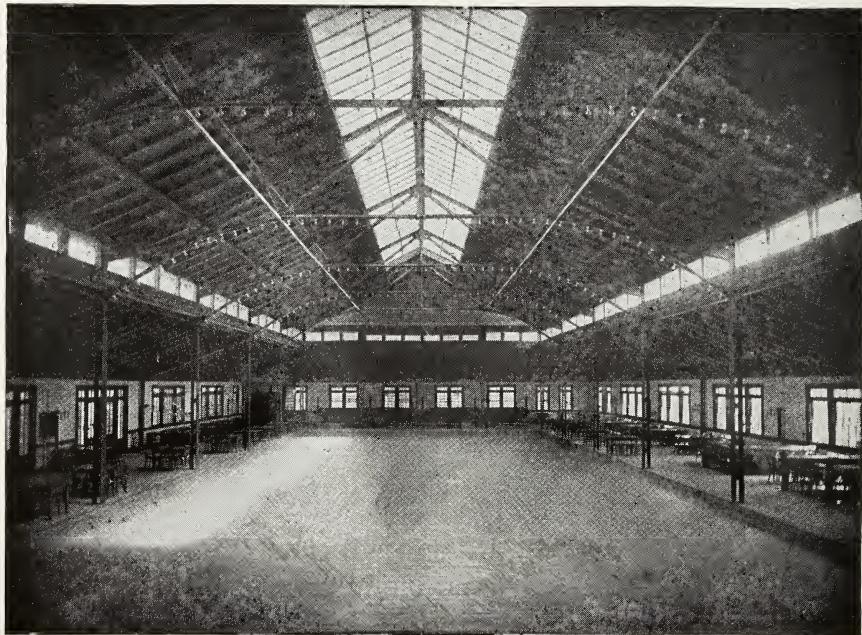
Decatur Street, between Wyckoff and Myrtle Avenues, formerly Smith Street.

Halsey Street, between Wyckoff and Myrtle Avenues, formerly Center Street, and before this Elm Avenue.

Himrod Street was named in honor of Rev. J. S. Himrod, the first pastor of the South Bushwick Reformed Dutch Church.

Weirfield Street, in honor of Thomas Weir Field, prominent surveyor, who resided here.

Wyckoff, Covert, Onderdonk, Woodward, Stockholm, Suydam, Himrod, Harman, Edsall and other avenues and streets originate from prominent family names identified with the section. Other names, such as Forest, Elm, Grandview, Fairview, Myrtle, etc., were affixed to describe natural facts connected with the streets or neighborhood; others were meant to perpetuate historic characters, and here and there some individual of minor importance was able to have his name perpetuated in one of the street names that now are part of our section.



RIEBLING'S GREATER NEW YORK PARK DANCING PAVILION

One of the largest and best equipped Dancing Pavilions in Queensboro

## CHAPTER III

### GREATER RIDGEWOOD'S PICNIC PARKS

The memory of the famous private picnic parks, which are so distinctly a part of Greater Ridgewood history, is the memory of pleasant days, pleasantly spent. They are part of the "days that were; that are gone and that never will return."

Among the very early picnic parks established in the section were the Myrtle Park, in the vicinity of Myrtle and Hamburg Avenues; the High Ground Park, in the vicinity of Myrtle and Knickerbocker Avenues; "Kliene Deutschland," on Wyckoff Avenue; the Ridgewood Park and Colosseum; Cypress Hills Park and Liberty Park. Later parks were Washington Park, on Washington Avenue, Evergreen; Evergreen Schuetzen Park, Riebling's Greater New York Park, Eldorado Park and Florida Park, Glendale, Elk Park, Metropolitan Park, Hofmann House Park and Tivoli Park.

Here the German families of another generation assembled and enjoyed themselves in innocent recreation very much in the manner that they were accustomed to do across the seas. Most of these parks have been eliminated, owing to the increase in land values and the decline of this sort of amusement. Their death-knell was sounded when such amusement places like Coney Island, Bergen Beach, Bowery Bay and Rockaway became popular and easily reached. A few of them remain, like Ridgewood Park, Ridgewood Colosseum, Cypress Hills Park, Greater New York Park, Schuetzen Park, Liberty Park and a few minor places, but the character of the patrons have changed and the places are proving unprofitable.

#### Ridgewood Park and Colosseum

Ridgewood Park and Colosseum was established by a group of four German grocers, Christian Hunkem, Ferdinand Von Damm, Dreyer and Boeckman. It was first leased by J. Geo. Grauer and then successively by Chas. Deckelmann, Chas. Wissel, Fred Deckelmann and Frank Pelletier. This once beautiful park is now cut up with such streets as Centre Street, George Street, Norman Street, Summerfield Street and Willow Street, running through the land. Its prestige and fame is gone, as well as the old familiar characters that were part of its very life.

The author's wife relates interestingly of her childhood days in this beautiful park, when the place was in the hands of her father and was at its best; the old blind accordion player who used to sit with his old worn and lame accordion at the entrance, playing some German doggerel and singing for the purpose of alms; the entrance itself, which was an imposing structure in the form of an immense wooden arch, painted white and bearing the name "Ridgewood Park." This arch stood at about where Covert and Myrtle Avenues now meet. A stately hotel stood nearby the entrance and where Public School No. 77 now stands, the large dance platform stood. Throughout the grounds stood the various auxiliary buildings, the "beer-depot," the ice-house, the bowling alley, the carousel with its inspiring organ that responded each time the machinery moved, with the self-same tune that served its purpose for twenty long years and more, the stage where the Schwabs,

Hessians, Bavarians and the other various German societies staged their plays depicting the quaint costumes of their section, the stork's nest, the wheel of fortune, the candy and fruit stand; gone are all of these landmarks and rows of modern residential houses, as well as a magnificent public school, now stand where they once stood.

Something like 35 years ago, five North Germans bought this immense stretch of woods and grounds for \$20,000, and laid it out for park purposes. A few years ago this same land was resold by the Jere Johnson, Jr., Realty Co. to speculators for building purposes for \$93,000.

#### Cypress Hills Park

Cypress Hills Park is still intact as a picnic grounds.

The colosseum still stands, as does the Ridgewood Grove adjoining, but both of these have been cut up by encroaching streets. The parks are at present owned by John Gerken.

It was originally known as Banzer's

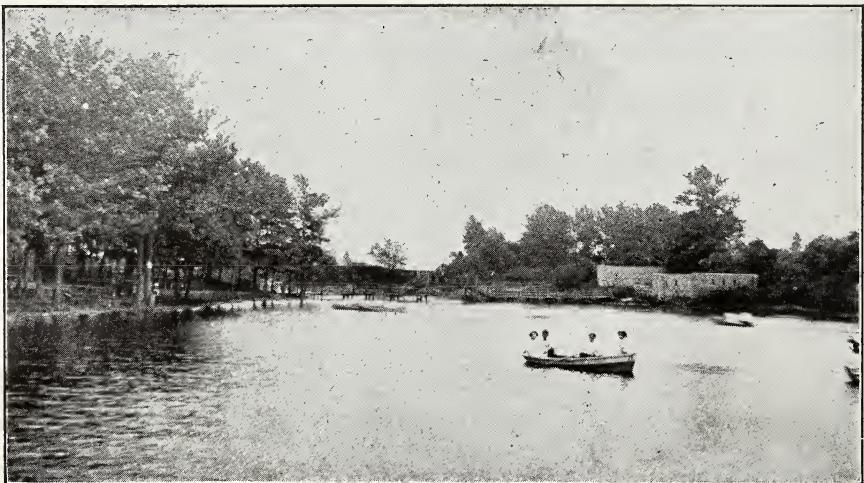
Park. It then passed into the hands of Wissel and later again into the hands of Joseph Banzer, old Banzer's son, who held the park until his death, when it was taken over by Mr. Charles Richter.

The park became famous because of its beautiful lake which afforded splendid skating in the winter time, attracting skaters from all over the city, and it is still popular in this respect, although the milder winters of the present time offer less opportunity for this healthy outdoor sport than in the days that most of the present generation can remember.

As a picnic park it is conceded to be the most scenic and prettiest of any in the city.

#### Glendale Schuetzen Park

Situated as it is, directly opposite the Ridgewood reservoir and overlooking Jamaica Bay, the park is admirably located in so far as trolley facilities are concerned. It can accommodate 7,500 persons and is a favorite place for church and school picnics, as well as target excursions, outings, etc.



THE BEAUTIFUL LAKE IN RICHTER'S CYPRESS HILLS PARK



GERKEN'S NEW COLOSSEUM

Part of old Ridgewood Park and Colosseum. This photograph was taken at the time when the large trunk sewer was being installed in Cypress Avenue

Glendale Schuetzen Park is now controlled by John Gerken, whose name has been associated conspicuously with Ridgewood's parks and whose biography appears on another page. It is an immense stretch of park, originally laid out by Charles Deckelmann, costing him something like \$80,000 to improve, it is still a favorite park for picnic purposes.

#### **Greater New York Park**

Riebling's Greater New York Park can be safely said to have the finest and most modern building of any in the Greater City. The building recently erected has been laid out with four elegant bowling alleys on the ground floor, an elaborate dining room that seats one thousand persons, and a modern kitchen. On the second floor an immense dance floor, which is open to the use of clubs and societies summer and winter. A large stage, with every mechanical device essential to a modern stage, has been provided, and lodge and society rooms have been fitted

out to meet the needs along this line. A pagoda extends along the entire rear of the building. A shooting gallery is one of the particular features intended for target excursions from every part of New York, Brooklyn and Queens.

Mr. Riebling recently announced that nine more lots had been added to the park proper, thus giving plenty of room for all the games and enjoyments that usually accompany a picnic or pleasure outing.

#### **Florida Park**

Florida Park, now owned by George Schaible, is probably best remembered in connection with his predecessor, Gottlieb Leibacher, who in 1908 was hauled before the Supreme Court of New York City, on a charge of violating the game law of the State. Leibacher had sent out his usual invitation for a "Hirsch Essen" or Venison Dinner. The game wardens secured one of these and attended in the hope of seizing Leibacher for having venison in his possession out of season. At about the time that the meal

was being served, a raid was made on his kitchen. Instead of venison, the detectives found that pork tenderloins were being served and Leibacher is said to have confessed that his invitations were misleading. The detectives then held him on another charge of holding a banquet at which the piece-de-resistance was supposed to be squab, but it was claimed that the squabs were star-

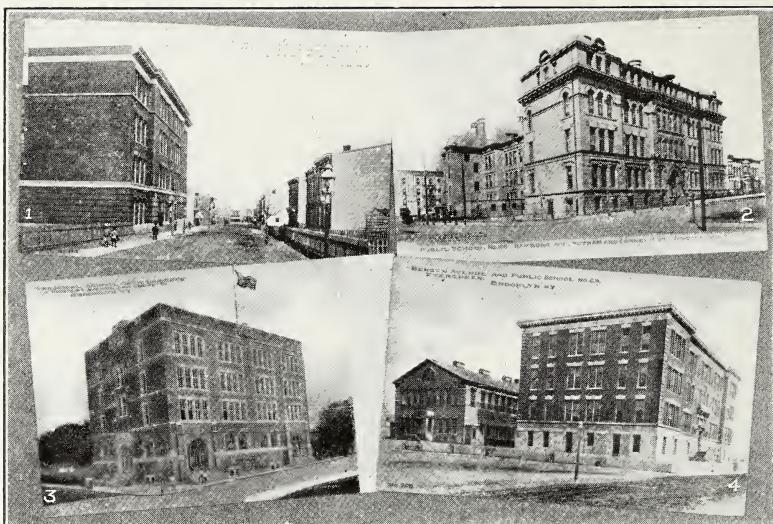
lings and robins, ruthlessly shot by the hundreds in Forest Park, which is back of the hotel.

So the famous old parks are gone and the days of the few remaining are numbered. Sad, indeed, that the city has not been enterprising and foresighted enough to acquire these beautiful pieces of woodland as city property for the benefit of future generations.



A BREATHING SPACE FOR GREATER RIDGEWOOD'S CHILDREN IN  
ONE OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD'S PRIVATE PICNIC PARKS

**PART II**  
**LOCAL SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES**



1.—PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 71

John Street, Metropolitan Section,  
Queensboro

3.—ST. BRIGID'S PAROCHIAL  
SCHOOL

One of the largest in the City, St.  
Nicholas Avenue and Grove Street

2.—PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 106

Hamburg Avenue, Putman Avenue and  
Cornelia Street, Knickerbocker  
Section

4.—PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 68

On Bergen Avenue, corner Rathjen  
Avenue. (The Frame Building  
the left is Old No. 9

## CHAPTER IV

### LOCAL SCHOOL HISTORY

The history connected with our local schools is interesting to chronicle as an indication of the remarkable growth of our section in point of population.

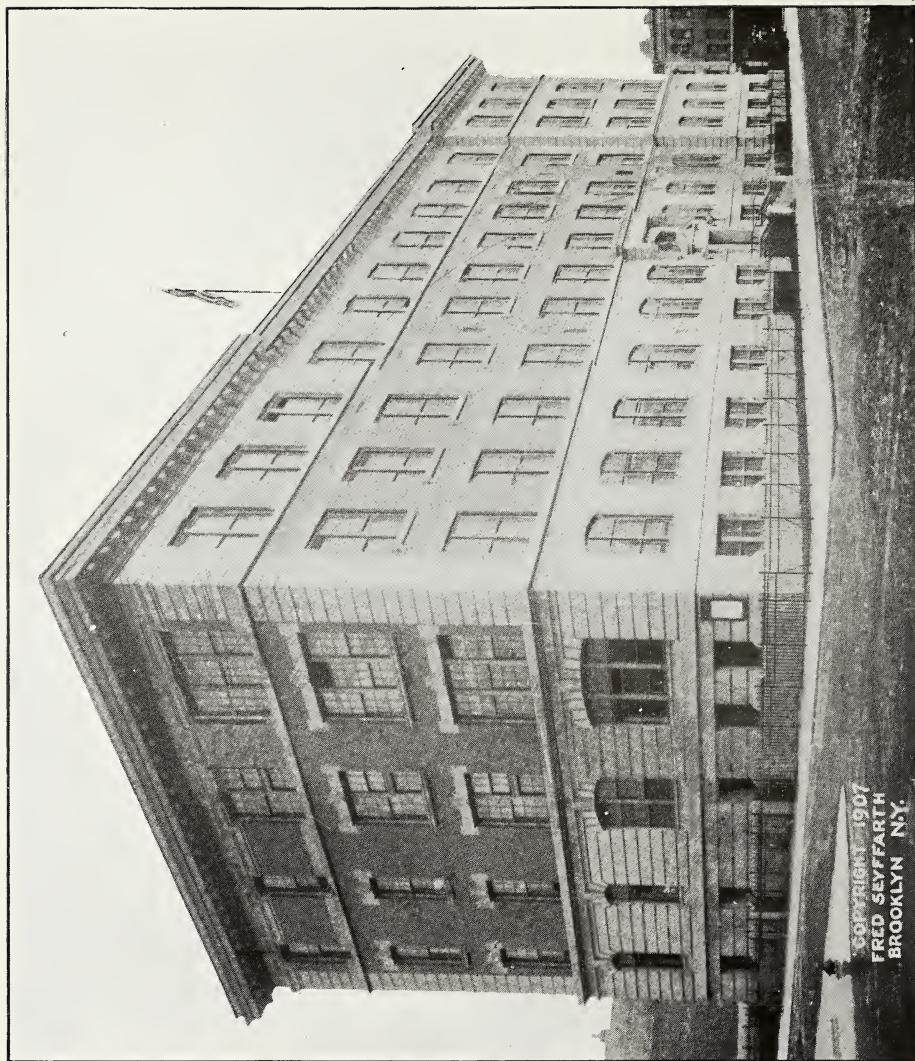
Miss M. Elizabeth Backus has ably perpetuated the history of the growth of our local Public Schools in a brochure that was issued by the Evergreen Board of Trade on the occasion of the opening of Public School No. 68. She reverts back to the little one-roomed district school-house of fifty or more years ago, situated on Cooper Avenue, formerly Cooper's Road, having a seating capacity for about forty children, and which is still standing at Cooper Avenue near Lafayette Street. Previous to this, the only school (and this served for the whole town of Newtown from North Beach to Cypress Hills) had been the old single-classroom school which was located in the Fresh Pond section, back of where the oilcloth factory now is. This school was maintained by means of a separate school tax paid by the farmers who sent their children there, and dates back to the very early days. But up to and even as late as the early part of the eighties, both public and secular education were still obtained under what we would now consider unusual difficulties. Outside of the Union School before mentioned, the only other facility for education were the secular school, such as St. Leonard's Parochial School, at Hamburg Avenue and Jefferson Street, which was established in 1874, and where many of Ridgewood's Catholic children attended, and Pastor Frey's, on Bushwick Avenue and Jefferson Street, attended by Protestant children. Private instruction could, of course, also be had at

home by long-haired, spectacled domines, who traveled about throughout the neighborhood in those early days and volunteered to meet the demands of education for a shilling or so a day and board.

#### **Difficulties of Education**

The few that were compelled to seek their education in one of these private schools outside the section had difficulties indeed. Mrs. Schubel, who was one of these, owing to the insistence on the part of her father that she receive German instruction in connection with her studies, relates interestingly how she used to be conveyed mornings from the Ridgewood Park Hotel, which her father owned, by vehicle to the Wyckoff Avenue depot, where the Bushwick Avenue horse car came in. Afternoons, however, and especially on cold days, in returning to the depot, the driver of the horse car, with the tacit consent of the depot master, would be good enough to ride on past the depot to the Ridgewood Park Hotel, where the tracks ended, with his single little passenger, knowing that on arriving there he would be treated to a liberal "schnapps" and some good cigars for his accommodation.

Mr. W. H. Wolfe, now a distinguished business man in the Glendale section, also reverts to these early days, relating how he and other boys had to go to school in Brooklyn, no school at that time being established there, and how they got to the school sometimes by walking, but most times by "hitching" on to the back of a farmer's wagon, a crude method of transportation, but a



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BROOKLYN N.Y.

PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 81, CYPRESS AVENUE, BLEECKER STREET AND RALPH STREET

delightful one to the boys and inexpensive at that.

Miss Backus, referring to these same days in connection with the old Union School, continues:

#### One Roomed School Early Beginning

"Even then, though school district No. 9 of South Williamsburg extended from Brooklyn City Line to Trotting Course Lane and from East New York line to Metropolitan Avenue, the school room was far from being over crowded. For many years this school was taught by Mrs. Weaver as sole teacher, until about thirty years ago, an additional teacher, Miss Van Nostrand was added, to the staff.

#### Need For More Room

"Slowly but surely the population increased in this sparsely settled district. In 1870, because of the overcrowded conditions, an extra room was joined on the rear of the original building. A few years later a small school house was built in Glendale Village and the old district thus became divided. In 1883, the Cooper Avenue School was raised and two rooms furnished below. This same building still stands on Cooper Avenue as an old landmark. In 1892 a Union Free School No. 9, with twelve rooms, was built on Bergen Avenue, between Rathjen Avenue and what was then known as Henry Street and John Street; at the time of consolidation this school became known as Public School No. 68 of Queens.

"In the Fall of the year 1892, Mr. Dumond, as principal, with a staff of six teachers, took possession of this building. The teachers were the Misses Louise V. DeBevoise, Jane B. McMurray, Ida L. George, Mary Baker, Lillian E. Morey and Mrs. Rosa M. Drew.

"As in all districts, the school was under the control of a Board of Trustees.

The annual expenses, which amounted to about \$12,000, were raised by means of a tax levied on the property of the district.

"In 1898, when Queens County became identified with the City of New York, the Union Free School went under the authority of the New York Board of Education and was henceforth known as Public School No. 68. This school, together with Schools Nos. 70, 71, 74 and 75, were united under the supervision of Dr. Dumond, with Miss Ellis as assistant in 68. In 1901, Schools Nos. 70, 74 and 71 were withdrawn from the consolidation; in 1905, Schools Nos. 68 and 75 were separated and it was then that principal, Miss Ellis, was appointed to her position.

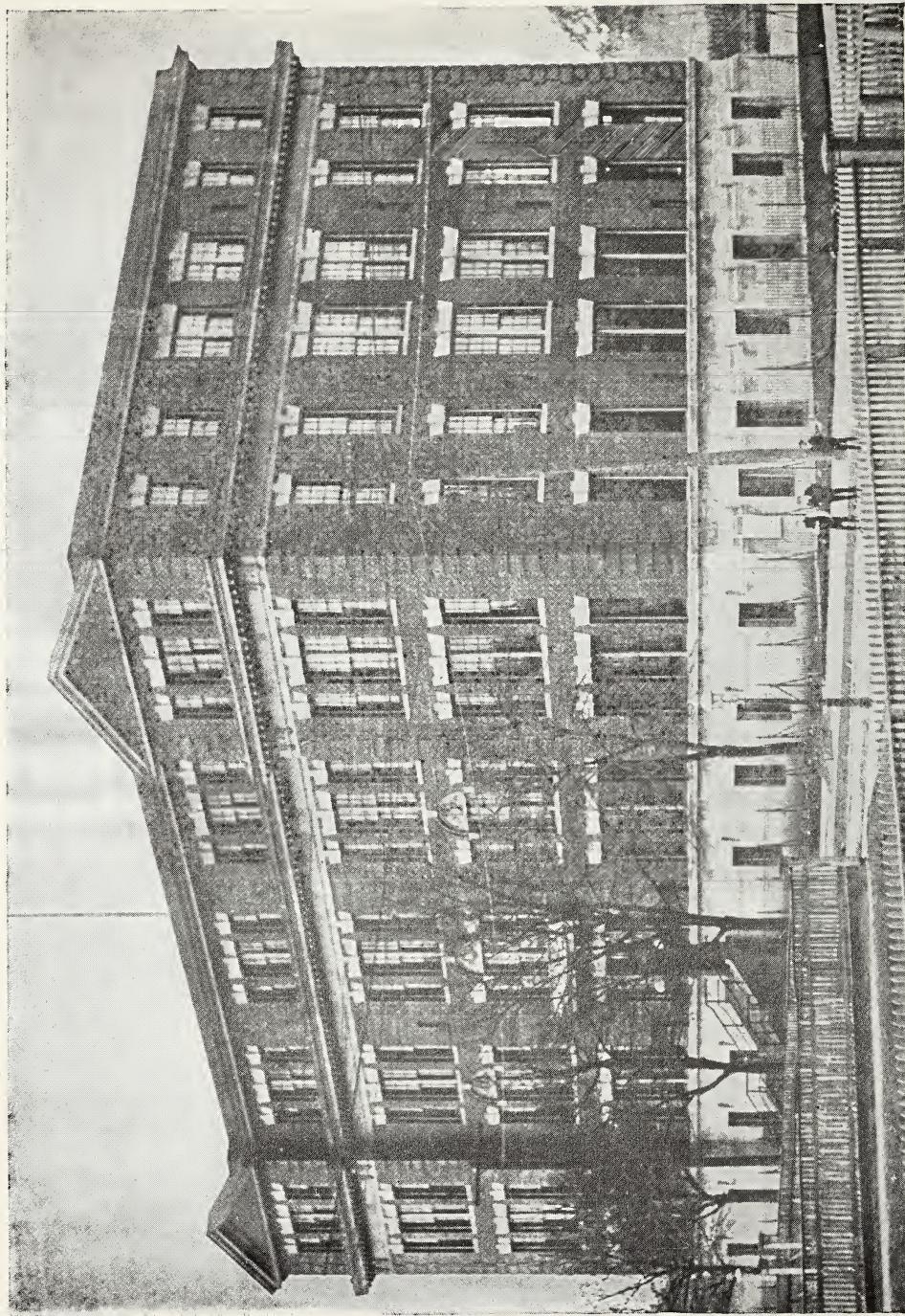
#### Old Ridgewood Park Leased

"Within two years of the last date the school could boast of having twenty-four classes all on part time. Old Ridgewood Park Hotel was leased and hence, in March, 1907, ten classes moved to that place. This relieved the situation somewhat, but new classes were formed from time to time and at the beginning of the Fall Term ten more classes were on half-day session.

"During this time it became apparent to all that some action must be taken to have School No. 68 either enlarged or a far larger building constructed. These needs were brought to the attention of the Board of Education by the school officials and the residents of Evergreen, with the result that the Board of Education, through proper process of law, acquired additional lands adjoining the old school site and erected a large, beautiful building with twenty-four spacious class-rooms, well lighted, heated, ventilated and equipped with all modern improvements."

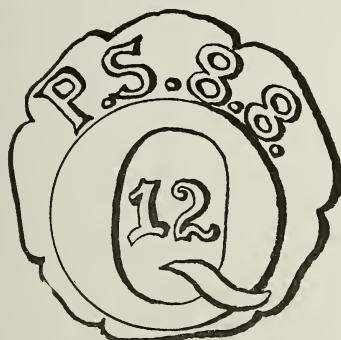
#### Public School No. 77 Agitated

About this time came the wonderful



PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 88 ELM AVENUE AND FRESH POND ROAD

influx of population, made up largely of sturdy and thrifty German-American families and the need for more school facilities again became a paramount issue. The need for another school was agitated. This time, however, a persistent fight had to be waged to even get the city authorities to consider the subject. Mr. Louis Richter, at that time on the local School Board, Mr. G. Schmidt, a prominent builder and civic worker of the firm of Burkard and Schmidt, Mr. Fred Grenell, Mr. George Emener, Mr. Joseph DeBragga and others whose names are linked with the early efforts to get the school, assisted by the writer through the Ridgewood Times, the Ridgewood Park Board of



SCHOOL EMBLEM OF PUBLIC SCHOOL  
No. 88, DRAWN BY ONE OF 1912  
GRADUATES

Trade and the Evergreen Board of Trade, worked tirelessly in the matter for almost two years, calling mass meetings, agitating through the civic boards and newspapers, and bringing to the attention of the city authorities in other ways, the absolute need of the school, with the result that an appropriation was granted and Public School No. 77 on Covert Avenue, between Center and George Streets, was built. It is to be hoped that the children who now enjoy

the advantages of this magnificent building will never forget the labors of those who made Public School No. 77 possible.

The school is considered one of the finest in the city. It is a four-story brick, stone and terra cotta building of the collegiate gothic style of architecture, and stands about where the dancing platform of Deckelmann's Ridgewood Park was located.

#### Other Local Schools

The other public schools in the Greater Ridgewood section are:

Public School No. 67—Central Avenue and Olmstead Place, Glendale section.  
Public School No. 106—Putnam Avenue, Irving Avenue and Cornelia Street.

Public School No. 71—Forest Avenue near Greene Avenue.

Public School No. 86—Irving Avenue and Harman Street.

Public School No. 81—Cypress Avenue, Ralph Street and Bleecker Street.

Public School No. 123—Irving and Willoughby Avenues.

Public School No. 86—Old Flushing Avenue near Grand Street, Maspeth section.

Public School No. 116—Knickerbocker Avenue and Grove Street.

Public School No. 88—Elm Avenue and Fresh Pond Road.

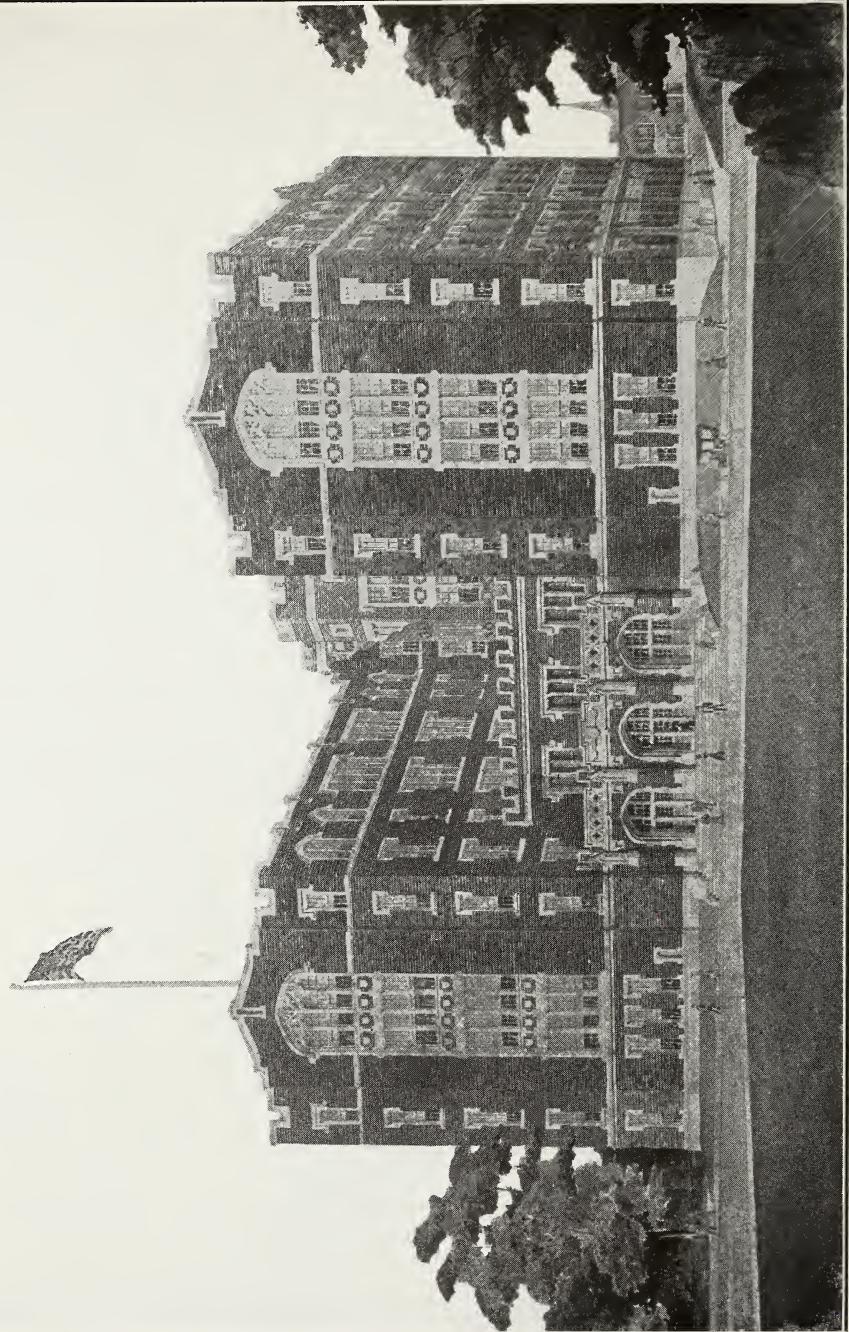
Public School No. 162—St. Nicholas Avenue, corner Willoughby Avenue.

Public School No. 91 (contemplated)—Myrtle and Washington Avenues, Glendale section.

Public School No. 151—Knickerbocker Avenue, Halsey Street and Weirfield Street.

Public School No. 93 (contemplated)—Putnam Avenue and Woodbine Street.

The local parochial schools are: St. Brigid's, St. Nicholas Avenue and Grove Street; St. Barbara's, Central Avenue and Ralph Street; St. Aloysius,



BUSHWICK HIGH SCHOOL, AT IRVING AND PUTNAM AVENUES, IN THE BROOKLYN SECTION OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD

Onderdonk Avenue and Stanhope Street; St. Mathias, Elm Avenue; St. Pancreas, Myrtle Avenue, Glendale; St. Leonard's, Hamburg Avenue and Jefferson Street.

### Bushwick High School

For many years the residents of the Greater Ridgewood and Bushwick sections of the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens had felt the need of a local high school. Our boys and girls who wished to continue their studies beyond the elementary schools were compelled to make long and expensive journeys to distant high schools or to pay burdensome fees to local private schools. At length such civic organizations as the Ridgewood Board of Trade, the Wyekoff Heights Taxpayers' Association, the Broadway Board of Trade and the 28th Ward Taxpayers' Protective Association began systematically to agitate the establishment of a new high school, and, for more effective co-operation, organized the Committee of Two Hundred with Hon. George C. Miller of the Board of Education as Chairman.

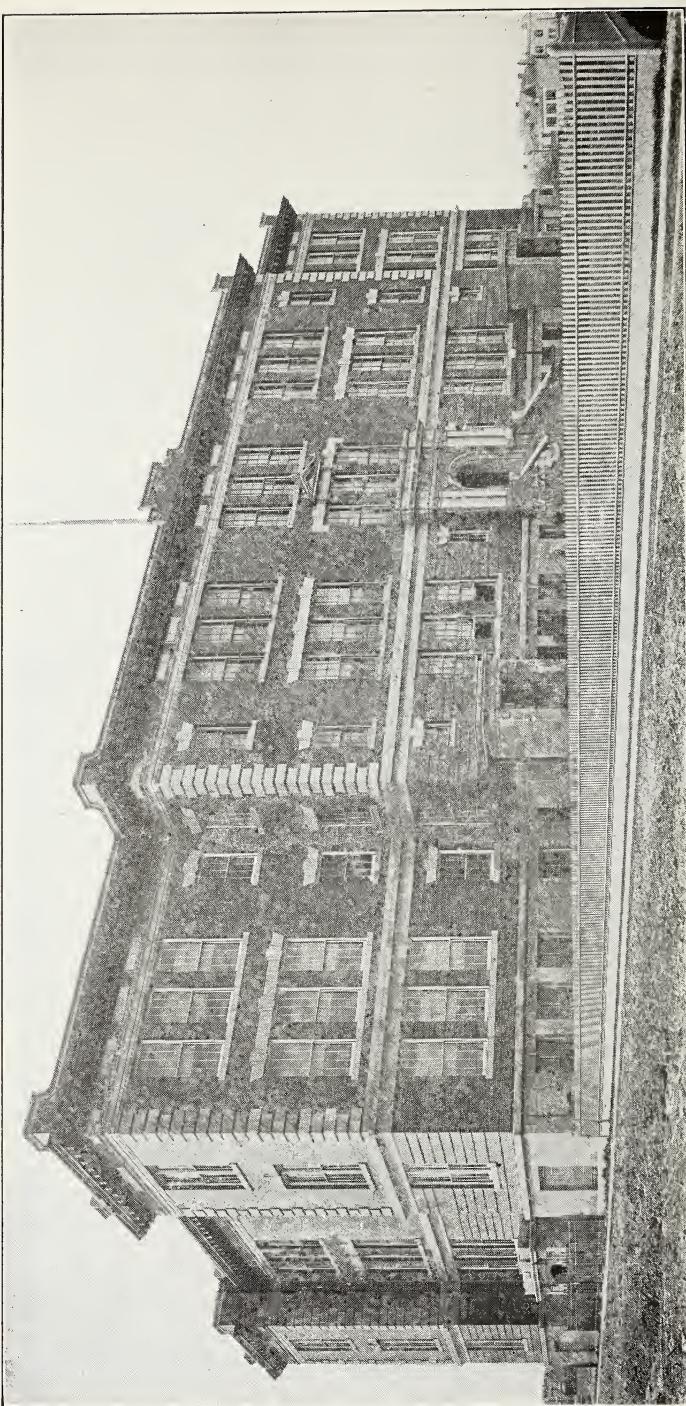
In response to the obvious and increasing demand for the new school, the High School Committee of the Board of Superintendents in March 24, 1910, submitted a report to the Board of Superintendents, recommending that an appropriation of \$450,000 be made for the erection of a new high school, with room for 1800 students, at the corner of Irving and Putnam Avenues. The same report also made recommendations concerning the number of shops, laboratories, gymnasiums, class-rooms, drawing-rooms, offices and other rooms to be provided. These recommendations were subsequently adopted by the Board of Superintendents and the Board of Education; and the drawing of plans and the making of specifications for the construction of the new building began immediately under the direction of Mr. C. B. J.

Snyder, Superintendent of School Buildings.

Under date of June 6, 1910, City Superintendent William H. Maxwell submitted to the Board of Education, resolutions of the Board of Superintendents recommending that the Ridgewood High School be established in September, 1910, in Public School No. 75, Brooklyn, with annexes in Public Schools 69 and 162; that general and manual training courses be offered for boys, and that the general high school course with options in sewing and cooking be offered for girls; and that a three years' commercial course also be offered for girls. This report was approved and adopted by the Board of Education and immediate steps were taken for the organization of the school. The principal, Dr. Frank Rollins, was elected at a meeting of the Board of Education on July 13, 1910, and, within the same month, requisitions for books and supplies were made, drawings and specifications for the equipment of shops were prepared, and the selection of the teachers for the first term was accomplished. Meanwhile, the name of the school had been changed to the Bushwick High School.

The school was formerly opened by Associate City Superintendent, Dr. Edward L. Stevens, on Monday, September 12, 1910, with an enrollment of one hundred and ninety boys and sixty-six girls,—two hundred and fifty-six students. The growth of the school has been remarkable, the enrollment having risen to 978 in February, 1911; 1327 in September, 1911, and 1737 during the present term. In February, 1912, it was necessary to open a new annex of eleven rooms in Public School No. 129.

Plans for the new building were completed and the contract for its erection was let before the end of the first school year. Ground was broken with appro-



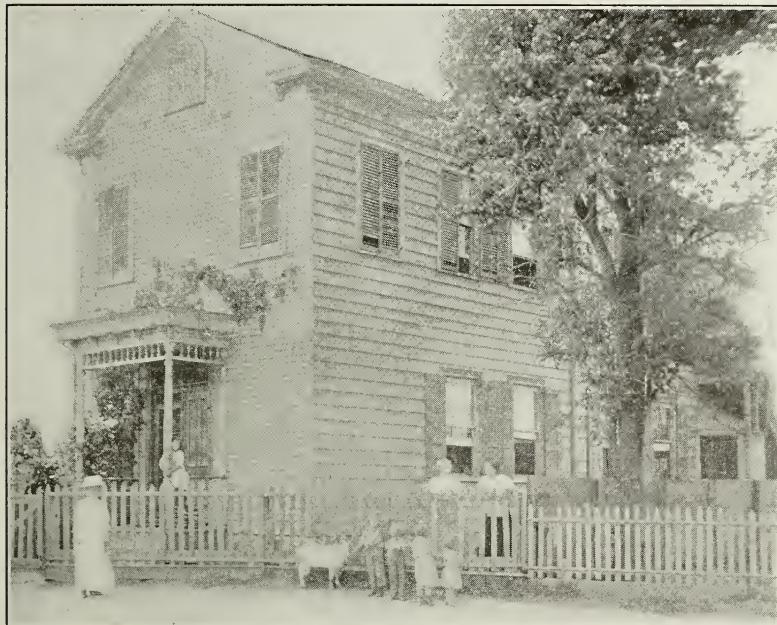
PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 86, DRY HARBOR ROAD, MIDDLE VILLAGE

priate ceremonies on Thursday, June 29, 1911; actual construction work began in July, and on Tuesday, March 12, 1912, the cornerstone of the building was laid by Hon. Patrick F. McGowan, Chairman of the Committee on Buildings, of the Board of Education, assisted by representatives of the Committee on Buildings and the Committee on High Schools and by representatives of our local civic organizations. In September of this year the school structure was formally opened and occupied. This splendid structure will stand as a source of permanent pride to our section and

as a lasting monument to those who agitated its establishment here.

Thus from a one-roomed school house and one parochial school fifty years ago, has developed into this wonderful system of public and private education represented in the schools enumerated above. Truly an advance such as no other part of the city has witnessed.

Biographical sketches of the Board of Education, Commissioner representing the Greater Ridgewood section, District Superintendent, Members of the Local School Board, Principals and Teachers will be found elsewhere in this volume, or in the supplementary volume to this history devoted to the biographies of prominent persons who are identified with the life and activities of our section.



THE ORIGINAL OLD RIDGEWOOD SCHOOL HOUSE

Built, one room at a time, by a group of farmers and supported by a direct tax of "12 shillings per quarter"—after the building of old No. 9, it was sold and remodeled into a tenement house. It still stands on Cooper Avenue near Cypress



PHOTO OF RIDGEWOOD TRAVELING LIBRARY STATION OF QUEENSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY, CORNER GREENE AND SENECA (COVERT) AVENUES

## CHAPTER V

### OUR LOCAL LIBRARIES

Up to the beginning of 1910, our section, in so far as library facilities were concerned, was sadly neglected, although we had at this time already an estimated population of something like 70,000. The only public library was in the Brooklyn section of Greater Ridgewood, at Knickerbocker Avenue and Grove Street, and there were no libraries in the Queens section. At this time the Ridgewood Times agitated the necessity of more libraries and in July, the Trustees of the Queens Borough Public Library took cognizance of the articles in the Times and responded by establishing two traveling stations, one at 242 Woodward Avenue, in the office generously offered for use by Mr. Gohlinghorst, and the other at 1650 Myrtle Avenue, in the office generously donated by Mr. George Emener.

#### **Queens Borough Public Library**

The Queens Borough Public Library has provided one branch library and three traveling library stations in this section within the last four years—since 1909—at Ridgewood, Evergreen, Glendale and Middle Village.

#### **Ridgewood Station**

That there was a real hunger for books in our section was evidenced by the fact that in the first month, August, 4677 volumes were circulated, and from July 18th to December 31st, 20,277 volumes or an average of 3,687 books a month. In January, 6354 volumes were circulated, being the highest monthly record of any library station in the borough. From July 18th, 1910, to March, 17th, 1911, 34,933 volumes were circulated,

and for the same date, 2542 borrowers were registered. This high record being demonstrated, the Library Board discontinued the traveling station on March 17th, 1911, and opened a regular library branch.

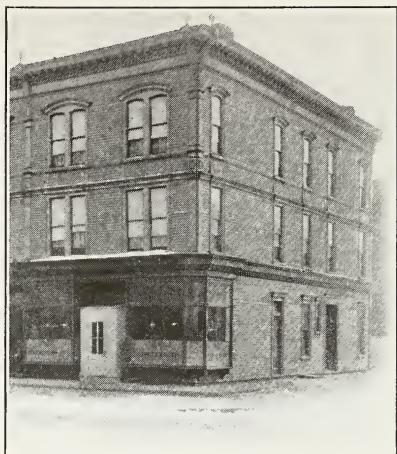
#### **Ridgewood Branch**

This Branch, known as the Ridgewood Branch, was opened on March 18th, 1911. The only place available was a store on the corner of Greene and Covert Avenues, too small to accommodate the people who wished to use the library. In consequence, it was at first largely used by the children, who crowded in, excluding the grown people. There was a registration of 972 persons from March 18th to 31st, including children. More than 2,000 volumes were circulated in the same time, of which 72 per cent. were children's books. Of the persons using the reading room, 94 per cent. were children.

The library soon got in touch with the community, establishing relations with the schools, the mothers' clubs, the Ridgewood Times, the factories and the clubs, and the use of the library increased rapidly. In October, the average daily circulation was 159 volumes; in January, 1912, about 200 volumes daily. The total circulation for 1911 was 40,341 volumes, of which 24, 587 volumes or 36 per cent., were of books for children. Only 60 per cent. of fiction was circulated and about 20,000 persons used the Reading Room.

Owing to the rapid growth of the library, it was apparent that more commodious quarters would have to be provided, and in May, 1912, the library was

## HISTORY OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD



RIDGEWOOD BRANCH  
(Brooklyn Public Library)  
Corner Knickerbocker Avenue and  
Ralph Street

removed to its present location, corner of Onderdonk Avenue and Harman Street, where a space more than twice as large is open to the public, and a separate room is provided for the children. Additional furniture was purchased, including tables, chairs and a fine delivery desk. Some handsome framed photographs of great paintings will shortly be placed on the walls.

The use of the library in 1912 has increased steadily, the circulation of books to children remaining large, almost the largest in the borough, though many of the other branches, being older, have a larger collection of books. A library building for this section is under consideration, also the establishment of additional stations in localities not readily accessible to the library centres already in operation.

### **Evergreen Station**

The Evergreen Traveling Station which was opened in Mr. Emener's office at about the same time that the

Ridgewood Heights Traveling Station was opened, circulated in August 2671 volumes, and from July 20th to December 31st, 1910, 10,942 volumes, an average monthly circulation of 1990 books.

During 1911, 22,248 volumes were circulated, a monthly average of 1854 volumes. In November, 1911, 2582 volumes were circulated, being the next highest record.

From July 20th, 1910, to December 31st, 1911, 1799 borrowers were registered at this traveling station. The station in July, 1912, moved into the Ridgewood Times Building and is supported conjointly by the Queens Borough Public Library, Evergreen Board of Trade, Ridgewood Park Board of Trade, Myrtle Improvement Association and the Ridgewood Times.

### **Glendale Station**

The Glendale Traveling Station was opened April 10th, 1911, at 2557 Myrtle Avenue. Circulated in May, 1911, 4152 volumes, highest monthly record. From April 10th to December, 31st, 1911, 1120 borrowers were registered. The station is now located at 123 Edison Avenue, near Myrtle Avenue, and is backed by the Glendale Mothers' Club.

### **Middle Village Station**

The Middle Village Traveling Station was opened September 22d, 1911, at Myrtle Avenue, near Dry Harbor Road. This station circulated during October 1672 volumes, highest monthly record; from September 22d to December 31st, 482 borrowers registered. The station is now located at 2177 Metropolitan Avenue.

The above traveling stations and the branch are all part of the Queensboro Public Library System.

### **Ridgewood Branch (Brooklyn)**

The Ridgewood Branch of the Brook-

lyn Public Library, corner Knickerbocker Avenue and Ralph Street, was established as before stated, on August 1st, 1903, and is the oldest of our local libraries. The library had been started by the Ridgewood Household Club in January, 1902, and was transferred to the public library system in the following May. During the intervening fourteen months it was conducted as a station in the rooms with the Ridgewood Household Club at 333 Bleecker Street.

The collection of books has grown steadily; beginning with 4086 volumes at the end of 1903, it now numbers 13,000 volumes.

A large, cheerful room was built on at the rear of the main room, expressly for the use of children, and opened in December of 1905. A fine collection of books for boys and girls is maintained in this department.

A comparison of the circulation of the first year of its existence as a regular branch, 1904, with that of 1911, shows an increase of 25 per cent. A little study of the figures brings out some interesting facts and goes to show that the increase in the actual usefulness of the library has been far greater than the increase in

the circulation. The gain in student use, that is, books issued for one month on special study cards, has been 500 per cent, while the number of books loaned in the useful arts has increased 250 per cent since 1904. A good proportion of this gain has been made in recent years.

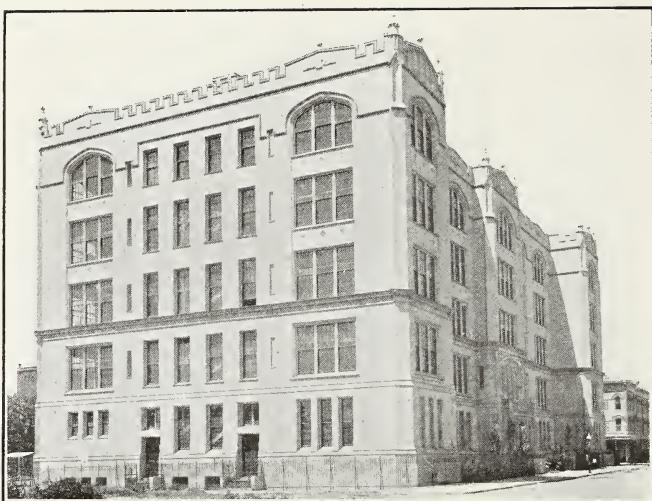
The residents of this section of Greater Ridgewood, as in the Queens section, are eagerly anticipating the erection of an adequate library building to accommodate the increasing demands of the library system.

#### **Libraries Exerting Good Influence**

Thus, with no libraries in the Queens section of Greater Ridgewood, and only one branch in the Brooklyn section at the beginning of 1910, the library facilities increased until in 1910 there were two library stations on the Queensboro side, and at the end of 1911, there were three library stations and one branch library; altogether five locations in Greater Ridgewood where books can be had, and the manner in which each one of them is being patronized shows the great influence that these libraries are exerting upon the life of our community.

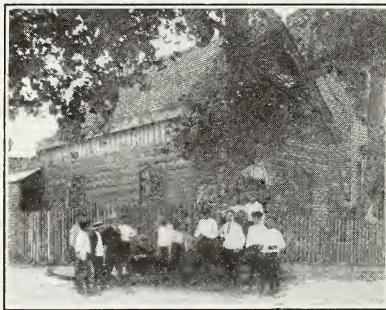


READING HOUR AT THE RIDGEWOOD BRANCH OF THE QUEENSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY, ONDERDONK AVENUE



NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 77, COVERT AVENUE, CENTRE  
AND GEORGE STREETS

PART III  
OLD FAMILIES OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD



#### OLD TOLL GATE HOUSE

One of the three Cypress Hills Plank Road Toll Gates. This House stood at Cypress Avenue corner Cooper, is now on Lafayette Street near Cypress Avenue

## CHAPTER VI

### OLD FAMILIES OF THE SECTION

Like every other section, the older families furnish interesting subject matter for research, and for a local history such as this, and we have tried, as far as possible, to include in this sketch reference to all those old families whose descendants are still identified with the life and activities of the section.

It should be remembered that there are two groups of what may be regarded as old families.

On the one hand, there are the families of the old American farmers, such as the Edsall's, Wyckoff's, DeBevoise's, Denton's, Van Nostrand's, Cooper's, Brunjes', Bergen's, Suydam's, Stockholm's, Way's, Tompkins', Remsen's, Backus', who were originally descended from the Dutch and English who were the earliest settlers here, from the Scotch and, as in the instance of the DeBevoise's, from the French Huguenots.

After them came a group of families spoken of as the German gardeners, who began to come about the time of the Civil War and before, from Yorkville and Harlem, where they were crowded out, owing to the development of those sections, such as the Woodward's\* Schumacher's (who married into the Onderdonk family), Meyer's, Meyerrose's, Wagner's.

The Covert family, although an old historic family, only became known in our section at a later date.

#### Denton Family

Prominent among the old families of what is now included in Greater Ridgewood, whose descendants still figure in the affairs and activities of the section is the Denton family.

\* Originally spelled Woodard

Reference to the Denton family is found as far back as 1704, when Nathaniel Denton, together with other zealous church members from Newtown, appeared at Jamaica to participate in the first election of church officers for the parish.

A casual reference is also found of one Daniel Denton of Elizabethtown, N. J., who married Deborah Scudder, of "Mespat Kills," as part of our section was called.

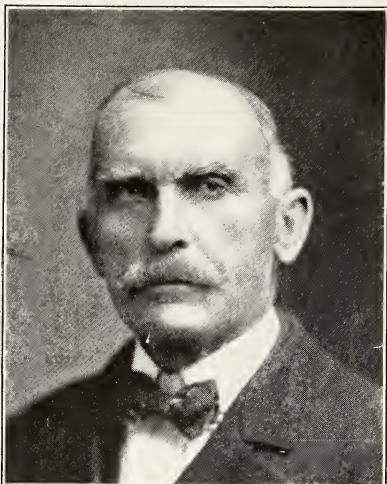
Another reference is to the marriage of Martha Denton to Peter Alburtis. In the days of the Revolution it is stated that some of the British officers "were quartered in Mrs. B. Denton's home-stead."

According to William H. Denton, father of Judge Alfred Denton, his great grandfather was one of three brothers who came from England some years before the Revolution. One of these brothers settled in Connecticut, another in the eastern part of Long Island, and the third in this part of Newtown.

Of the first, Mr. Denton has never found definite trace, although there are a number of Dentons in various parts of Connecticut today.

Of the second brother, Mr. Denton met some years ago a great-grandson who bore the same name as himself, William H. Denton, who after following the plow, as his ancestors had done, sold his farm and went into the oyster business at Oyster Bay.

The great-grandfather who settled here, although born in England, was an American patriot and served under Washington in the Revolution. He was stationed at Fort Green in the defense of Long Island when Washington ex-



MR. WILLIAM H. DENTON  
Father of Municipal Justice Alfred Denton

pected the attack which was actually shifted to Flatbush or what is now Prospect Park.

#### Jacob Denton

Isaac Denton, a son, was a shoemaker and is said to have married a Hessian woman. Their son Jacob married Margaret Burns of New Jersey. He went to work first for one Hank Lincoln, a farmer, in the East New York section, for a shilling a day—the prevailing rate of wages for farm help in those days. Later he worked on the farm of his older brother John, which at present is known as Mount Carmel Cemetery.

In 1840, he began to buy land for his own farm, although he was not yet of age. He built the old Denton Homestead, which stood for years on the slope of a hill within what is now Mount Carmel Cemetery. He was not only an industrious and thrifty man, but very thoughtful and public-spirited. He was one of the founders of the Union Place

Methodist Church on Fresh Pond Road near Jamaica Avenue and of the first school in what is now Greater Ridgewood. This school was built on Cooper Avenue, one room at a time, and each family in the neighborhood contributed twelve shillings per quarter for its support. Up to about 1855, the nearest school house was at Fresh Pond Road, just back of where the oilcloth factory now stands. The Cooper Avenue school was sold, after the establishment of old No. 9, to Mr. McBride, who remodeled it into an apartment house, which purpose it is still serving today.

Jacob Denton was much interested in psychic phenomena and had quite a reputation for his wonderful interpretations of dreams. He foretold the Civil War, the encampment of State troops east of Cypress Hills and the purchase of parts of his and adjoining farms for a National Cemetery five years before the war began, basing his predictions upon the interpretation of a dream of his son William (then a boy of about eleven years). He used dreams as a guide to the conduct of his own and his neighbor's business, guiding the purchase and sale of land, horses and in other matters with most astonishingly accurate results, it is said.

Jacob Denton died in 1898 at the age of eighty, leaving a comfortable fortune to his heirs. He is buried in the family plot in Cypress Hills Cemetery.

Jacob Denton had three children that grew up. Charles, the oldest, who married Catherine Freestone, died some years ago. His widow now resides on Hendrix Street in East New York. The daughter is in California and the son is in Rockland County, N. Y. Isaac, the second son, married first Mathilda Rathjen, who died shortly after the marriage. He later married another sister, Anna. (See account of Rathjen family.)

**William H. Denton**

William H. Denton, the third son, was born May 27th, 1845, in the old homestead mentioned above.

He attended the school at Fresh Pond and later the new school on Cooper Avenue. He was a collector of the "12 shillings per quarter" for the support of the new school for several years.

He was present with his father on the festive July 31st, 1856, when with elaborate ceremonies, Snediker's cornfield was turned into a reservoir which was officially named the Ridgewood Reservoir.\* This name, he says, came to be applied to this section.

He recalls vividly the exciting days of the Civil War, when all East New York was a tent city of the soldiers being organized to go South in defense of the Union, and the camp meetings in the woods of Cypress Hills, where orators urged men to enlist. He was too young to enlist and his father was rejected because of his age, so they both remained at home to raise supplies for the soldiers in the field. William drove regularly to Washington Market, where the Government agents purchased the products and ordered them delivered uptown in Manhattan, where they were canned or made into "Cakes" to be shipped South. Sprouts brought \$1.75 per barrel and tomatoes \$4.50 per crate in those days, while flour brought \$14.00 per barrel.

He recalls vividly the daily procession up through Cypress Avenue of the wagonloads of coffins containing soldiers who had been wounded and sent North and who died in New York hospitals and were buried in the National Cemetery at Cypress Hills.

He married Mary Rathjen, a sister

of Mathilda and Anna, whom his brother Isaac had married.

William Denton has been a farmer all his life, and although not actually managing a farm today, is still occupying himself with his garden and stable and the "chores" about his home.

He is a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, Evergreen Board of Trade and several Democratic clubs.

He has seven sons and daughters living, as follows: John, who married Nellie Mainwaring, of Elmhurst, and lives upon and conducts his father's farm on Cooper Street, Evergreen. May, who married John Klotsbach, of Cooper Avenue and Fresh Pond Road; Alfred, the judge; Estella, the wife of L. Case, of Cooper Avenue; Miss Minnie Wilhelmina, who is married to Andrew Case; Jacob, who married Maud Case, a niece of L. Case, and Miss Dorothea.

**Alfred Denton**

Alfred Denton, present Justice of the



JUDGE DENTON

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The Ridgewood Reservoir is by far the largest on Long Island and provides nearly half the supply of Brooklyn; almost as much as the other twenty-eight stations put together.

Third District Municipal Court of Queens, was born June 24th, 1877, in the home on Cooper Avenue, still occupied by his parents.

He attended the old Cooper Avenue school, of which his grandfather was one of the founders, the Boys' Evening High School in Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Preparatory Evening School and the New York Law School. His law school diploma bears the date of his 24th birthday anniversary.

His struggles to obtain higher education than that which the little one-class school-house of his day furnished, should be an inspiration to every young lad who is ambitious to make something of himself and who has less difficulty in these days of educational opportunities than the Judge had in the days when education was at a premium in our section.

After graduating from law school, he became identified actively with the Democratic party and became an important factor in local politics, owing to a native shrewdness and resourcefulness that was soon recognized and acknowledged throughout the party. He was one of the principal factors that engineered the various primary and election campaigns that have taken place since consolidation, and although the ethics of his judicial position do not permit him to continue to take an active part in his party's affairs, his advice is still sought whenever an important primary or election campaign is launched.

His first public office was as Secretary to Public Works Commissioner Joseph Bermel in 1905. In 1906 he was Secretary to the Borough President, which he resigned in March of that year, and was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Public Works. He was Public Works Commissioner under Gresser from May, 1908, to October, 1909, when he resigned to accept the nomination for

Justice of the Municipal Court, Third District, to which he was elected for a ten-year term by an almost unanimous vote (11,000 out of 13,500).

He married Adelaide C. Backus and has three children: William, Irvin and Helen.

His favorite recreation is gunning and he usually manages an annual excursion into Canadian woods for a hunting expedition.

He is a member of the Ridgewood Reformed Church.

He is a director of the Queensboro Business Institute, member of Mispah Lodge, 738, F. and A. M.; Queensboro Lodge of Elks, 878; Benefactor Lodge, R. A.; Evergreen Camp, Woodmen of the World; Glendale Council, Foresters of America; Glendale Chapter, Jr. O. U. A. M.; Monroe Democratic Club, Unity Democratic Club and many other political and social organizations.

### The Way Family

The Way family is probably the oldest family of whom there are at present any representatives still living in this section, as it appears that James Way, a descendent of an old family of Somersetshire, England, came here some years before the original DeBevoise pioneer and "settled at the English Kills (as the region around Maspeth Creek was then called) and acquired a large estate." It is on record that he was a useful and public-spirited citizen; served as an overseer, and that he embraced the principles of the Quakers, "which his descendants have very generally maintained."

He had three daughters and three sons: James, John and Francis.

John, who acquired the paternal farm at the English Kills, by purchase from his brothers and sisters, had three daughters and three sons: John, Samuel and James. Upon the death of James, his

will was found to bequeath about \$5,000 to the Quaker Society for the founding of a Charity School, and the homestead to his brother Samuel's son Samuel. The latter Samuel died in 1798 and a few years later, 1815, this property was sold to the family of the late Judge Furman; thus the last of the original Way estate in that section passed out of the possession of the family.

Francis, from whom the present representatives of the family in this region are descended, had two daughters and two sons: James and John. This John in turn had one daughter and three sons, of whom the eldest was also named John. This latter John had two sons: John, born in 1721, and Samuel. Samuel had two daughters and three sons: John, Burling and Richard. Of these, John had a son, also named John, whose son, Charles F., was identified with the history of Newtown. Richard, who was married in 1786, had three daughters and four sons: Walter, Thomas, Richard and Samuel; and Walter had several daughters and two sons: Walter and Abram.

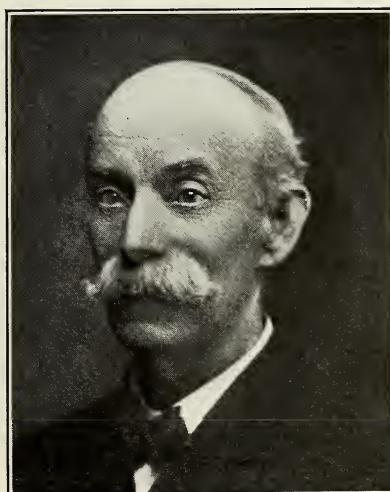
The Charles F. just mentioned in the latter part of the last paragraph, was born June 14th, 1786, married Patience Morrell; enjoyed a long and useful life and left five sons and three daughters. He died in 1854. His children were: John J., Abram M., Samuel, Charles F., Joseph H., Ann, Susan and Harriette, who married Robert Boroughs, a supervisor of the Town of Newtown.

Of these John L., who married Sarah Bertine of New York City March 13th, 1839, and who died at the age of 85, in 1907, had fourteen children: Charles F., who died in infancy; Hester A., who married William Denton and lives at 124 Linden Avenue, Brooklyn; John B., who lives in Jamaica; Emma, who married Mr. Lupton and lived at 800 Hancock Street; Oscar B., of Middle Vil-

lage; Mrs. Mary F. Fedden, Mrs. Eliza A. Hipwell and Mrs. Catherine C. White, all of whom live in Brooklyn; Mrs. Julia A. Knight and Mrs. Sarah S. Cain, both of whom died recently; William A. Way, of 81 St. Nicholas Avenue, Cypress Hills; Mrs. Harriet J. Miller, of 676 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn; George F. Way, of 243 George Avenue, East New York, and Susan A., wife of Walter I. Browne, the surveyor of Elmhurst.

#### Oscar B. Way

Oscar B. Way was born February 6th, 1846, on his father's farm, now a part of Lutheran Cemetery, in an old home-stead which, up to about ten years ago, was occupied as the parsonage by Rev. D. W. Peterson. As a boy, he attended the old school on Forest Avenue near Metropolitan. In June, 1872, he married Harriet B. Denton, who died in 1891, shortly after the birth of her only son, leaving a family of five children: Ida A., who married Hiram N. Remsen, of Queens; Laura J.; Gertrude, who mar-



MR. OSCAR B. WAY

ried James Payan, of Queens; Florence, and Elmer L., who has just married Susan Boschler, of Brooklyn, and lives at 611 Woodward Avenue.

Oscar B. Way, has a beautiful home at 2232 Metropolitan Avenue and whose place of business is at 1615 Metropolitan Avenue, he has been a real estate and insurance broker and auctioneer for the past twenty years, previous to which he railroaded on the old South Shore Railroad for five or six years and then cultivated a farm for more than seven years.

He is President of the Board of Trustees of the Middle Village M. E. Church (said to be the second oldest church in American Methodism) and a member of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island and of Maspeth Lodge No. 738, F. & A. M., and a trustee of the Provident Association of Newtown.

Oscar B. Way is much interested in local history, as well as in genealogical records of the Way family, and has collected a number of interesting historical relics, among which are old wills, deeds and heirlooms. As an illustration of the increase in real estate values in even what may not be regarded as first-class property, he instances the triangle occurring at the southeast corner of Metro-

politan Avenue and Fresh Pond Road (at Bushwick Junction), consisting originally of about seven and three-quarter acres, which was sold to the father of Martin H. Brunjes, June 26th, 1862, for \$5,252, and which, after about one and three-quarter acres had been sold to the Long Island Railroad Company, for about the above amount, was sold three years ago to the Bushwick Junction Real Estate Company for \$50,000 (or about \$10,000 per acre).

#### The DeBevoise Family

In early histories of the settlement period of this county, we read that Carol DeBevoise "was a highly respected and well-educated French Protestant," who came from Lyden in Holland, February 17th, 1659, with his wife, whose maiden name was Sophia Van Lodensleyn.

The branch of the family that settled in the Ridgewood section acquired a great deal of property, parts of which were later owned by farmers who settled here at later periods. Maps of this section issued about fifteen years ago, however, show the various DeBevoise farms bordering on Myrtle Avenue, from Elm and Myrtle Avenues all the way to Glendale. There were also DeBevoise farms in this section other than those



JOHN M. DEBEVOISE'S HOME

Cooper Avenue and Dill Place, removed by Richard Weber, who built up this section in 1910

through which this part of Myrtle Avenue was cut.

The grandfather of Edward DeBevoise, of 82 Summerfield Street, whose name was Moses, was one of three brothers. John was the oldest brother and Charles the youngest.

John had had only one son, whose descendants, Fred J., whose place of business is at Gansevoort Market, New York; Abraham B., who lives with his sister, Caroline (Mrs. Howard Hayden), who lives at East Williston.

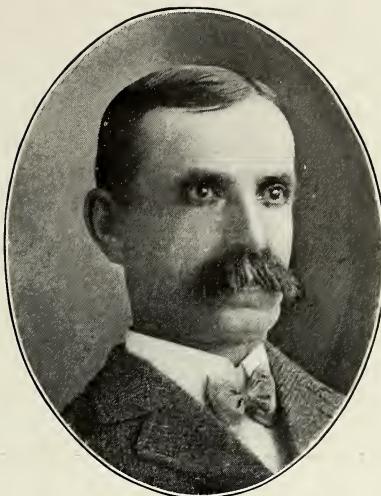
Charles had two sons: John C., who married Jane Way, and Cornelius, neither of whom left any heirs; and a daughter (Mrs. Purdy), who went to Roundout Station.

It is the family of Moses DeBevoise that has been identified with the Ridgewood of recent years. He had four children: Peter, John M., Sarah Ann and Charles.

Peter had two children: John S. and Mary Ellen, both of whom live in the old homestead on Fresh Pond Road just off Myrtle Avenue, neither of them having married.

Sarah Ann married Wyckoff Drew and moved to Greenfield, Mass., while Charles married Sarah D. Pine, of Blissville. Of the children of Charles: George, Mary Ellen (Mrs. Henry Pitcher), Charles and Clara, the best-known, probably, is Charles, who married Jennie Rapelye, a niece of Peter Wyckoff, and who was the manufacturer of the famous DeBevoise Waist, with offices on Broadway, Manhattan.

John M. DeBevoise, who died only about four or five years ago at the age of 89, had a farm lying between Myrtle and Cooper Avenues, adjoining the Rathjen farm and almost equally bisected by Dill Place. He married Hester B. Gosman, of Long Island City, and had six children: William G.,



MR. EDWARD DEBEVOISE

Sarah, Edward, George G., Louisa and Charles.

Of the children just mentioned, George G. married Isabelle Baker, of Brooklyn, lives on Lefferts Avenue, Richmond Hill and has a son, Winifred. Louise married Nelson Smith, lives at 131 Noble Street, Brooklyn, and has a son named Nelson DeBevoise Smith; and Charles married a Miss Langdon, lives in Boston and has a son named Charles Langdon DeBevoise.

#### **Edward DeBevoise**

Edward DeBevoise was born in 1854, in the house which his father had built on the part of the old Remsen farm, which he bought and worked for many years. This house stood at the corner of Cooper Avenue and Dill Place up to a couple of years ago, when it was demolished by Richard Weber, who bought most of this farm and has already built several blocks of modern houses on Dill Place and thereabouts.

Edward DeBevoise attended the little school on Cooper Avenue which his



MR. JOHN C. DEBEVOISE'S HOUSE  
Fresh Pond Road and Elm Avenue

father, together with Van Nostrand, Joseph Tompkins, Jacob and John Denton and the Kolyers had just built with their own money upon land donated for the purpose by Henry Bergen, who then owned the farm afterward purchased by Henry Rathjen. Later he attended Public School No. 25 in Manhattan and Public School No. 26 in Brooklyn.

When he was about fifteen years of age, he went to New York and worked in two or three different offices, returning then to his father's farm, where he has worked until 1892, when he was appointed to a position on the Board of Elections, which position he has held ever since.

He has been an ardent Republican all his life and has been identified with the Thirtieth Election District Republican Association for many years.

He is best known probably, however, for his activity and long service on the Local School Board, for many years previous to and right up to the time of consolidation with Greater New York, as was also his sister Louisa (now Mrs. Smith), who taught school for several

years, both in the old Cooper Street school and in old No. 9. (Miss DeBevoise had charge of the graduating class at No. 9 for a number of years previous to her marriage.)

Mr. DeBevoise served several three-year terms as a member of the Board and also at different times as Clerk of the Board, and was noted for his close study of school laws, methods and ways and means. His ideas were very influential and much of the excellence of the facilities, equipment, teachers and curriculum of the Ridgewood school, commendation of which, by State boards and High School teachers and principals who had opportunities of observing the good work and thorough training of the Ridgewood children, were very general and unstinted, was due to his knowledge of requirements and his sound sense and counsel and his energetic and resourceful backing of what he considered the best interests of the local school. There were violent differences of opinion, developing into factional feuds, in those days, when it required good generalship to accomplish anything, and when the parlia-

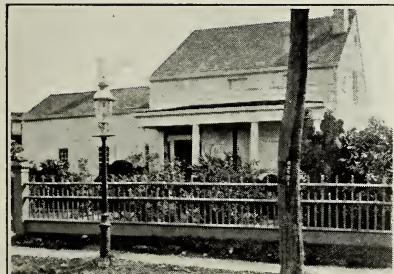
mentary skill, for which he was noted, stood him in good stead.

Mr. DeBevoise had much to do with the selection of the Bergen and Rathjen Street sites for the new school and also with the building and financing plans, the success of his ideas at this time are justly regarded as a notable achievement. One feature of the school house (which still stands in the school yard of No. 68) was the superior ventilation system, and the school house was noted for the freedom from headaches and fatigue among teachers and pupils, which some more modern and much more elaborate and costly school buildings have failed to provide.

Mr. DeBevoise married Louisa Leges, of Brooklyn, June 25th, 1902, and has a son, Arthur H., now five years old, who celebrates his birthday on Columbus Day.

#### **William Gosman DeBevoise**

William Gosman DeBevoise, brother of Edward DeBevoise, was born January 20th, 1850, in the old homestead of his uncle Peter, which still stands on



MR. PETER DEBEVOISE'S HOUSE

Fresh Pond Road near Myrtle Avenue.

He went to work as a boy for A. T. Stewart, the famous merchant, and remained with him for twenty years, during which time he was a resident of Ridgewood, up to 1885, when he married

Anna A. Nostrand, daughter of J. L. Nostrand, the surveyor, of Myrtle and Bushwick Avenues. He then went into business with his father-in-law, later, upon his death, he conducted the business alone, and has his office now as City Surveyor at corner Broadway and Myrtle Avenues.

William G. DeBevoise has three children: Elinor N. (now Mrs. Walter Smith, of Brooklyn Hills), Richard Gosman, who is the recognized historian and genealogist of the DeBevoise family, and Nostrand, both of whom live with their father at 169 Howard Avenue, Brooklyn, (Mrs. William G. DeBevoise having died a few years ago).

#### **The Backus Family**

About the year 1825, when Canal Street, in Manhattan, was still a canal and north of it pastures belonging to pioneer farmers, Charles Backus and his sister Attolia came from Germany and settled in the neighborhood of Greenpoint. He soon acquired a farm in the neighborhood of Pennybridge Road, now Meeker Avenue, near Greenpoint.

His brother Herman followed him to America in 1830, accompanied by another sister Wilhelmina. Later came Askin, Gustave, Paulina and Emma, the rest of the brothers and sisters.

Charles not only knew how to make a farm pay, but he was a far-sighted business man. He bought one farm after another, employing men to work them under his direction, while, with the aid of his brothers as salesmen, he disposed of the products and waited for the increase in values of his many holdings. He had farms in Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Blissville, Astoria, Blackstone, Flushing Bay, Foster's Meadows, Springfield and other places, employing more than one thousand farm hands and more than one hundred horses.

All these farms of hundreds of acres

were devoted to gardening, too, no meadows or pastures. There were, for instance, forty acres at Foster's Meadows of asparagus; twenty acres at Blackstone of strawberry beds, etc.

After being associated with Charles for some years, Herman and Askin together bought a farm on Fresh Pond Road, and later Askin withdrew and bought parts of the Flushing Bay farm from Charles and the Tompkins farm in Glendale and the Jackson farm on which, the old homestead still stands at Queens Boulevard, near White Pot Road.

Herman later acquired part of the DeBevoise farm from "Rope Walk" John DeBevoise, through which Myrtle Avenue was cut about 1852.

The descendants of these eight original Backus brothers and sisters now number more than one hundred, although only a comparatively few remain in the neighborhood with which there original forebears were identified.

Charles had a son and a daughter, Alfred and Matilda, neither of whom are now living. A daughter of Alfred married a German nobleman and went back to the Fatherland, whence her grandparents had come. Matilda married Peter O'Donohue, and thus this branch became identified with the commercial and social affairs of the Eastern District.

The children of Attolia are identified with Manhattan; Fred, who died some years ago, leaving a large family, was proprietor of the old Philadelphia Hotel, and Otto, now a grandfather, lives at 417 East 147th Street, Manhattan.

Gustave and Wilhelmina and Paulina left no children, while Emma, who married John Probst, lived in Chicago, and her descendants are mostly living in that city except those of her son Edward, who went to Boston and is now represented by Arthur Probst, of 5 Brown Terrace, Jamaica Plains, Mass.

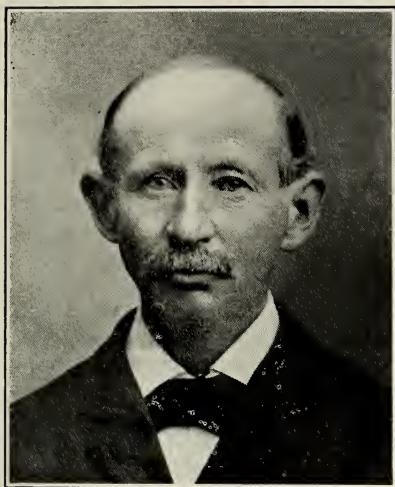
Askin married, first Mary Beetham, daughter of a Rev. Beetham, and later following her death, he married her sister Elizabeth. Emma, who married a Van Wickle; Cornelius; John E., who married Phoebe Vanderveer, of Trotting Course Lane, who at the time of his death, in March, 1910, was President of the Queens County Trust Company, and left three sons: Eugene, Wyckoff (who lives in the old homestead at present), and Edwin; Mary, who married Dr. Lever of Flushing, and Fred, who is associated with the Cord Meyer Development Company, are the children of his first wife, and George, who married Jennie Sheffield, daughter of the pastor of the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church, and who lives now in Pasadena, California, and Pauline, who married George Squire and lives at 88 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, are the children of his second wife.

Herman Backus married Charlotte Cladius, sister of Amelia, whom his brother Gustave married (both of whom were born in Germany) in 1884. When, in 1878, he died, he was survived by his widow and his children: William, Athelia, who married Richard Agricola and moved to St. Louis; Mary, who married Albert Mulkins and whose children live now in Utica; Caroline, who married James Van Dorn, of Cooper and Myrtle Avenues, and Johanna, who married Adolph Witte and lives at 69 Pilling Street, Brooklyn, and whose eldest daughter married Dr. Earl Holden, of Evergreen Avenue and Harmon Street.

### William Backus

William Backus was born in 1846 in the old homestead, the foundation of which still stands within a couple of hundred yards of his present home on Fresh Pond Road.

He attended the old Cooper Road



MR. WILLIAM BACKUS

School and later two different German private schools in East New York and worked on his father's farm. He spent four summers in Lewis County in the cheese business, but always returned to assist his father in caring for the Ridgewood farm.

In 1877, he married Helen Stephens, of Lewis County, and upon the death of his father the following year, he took charge of the old farm and worked it as superintendent for his mother and brothers and sisters. Partition deeds were then issued to those whose claims had not yet been assigned to William Backus, and in 1900-05 the property was laid out into building lots and put upon the market, although a considerable part still remains in possession of members of the family.

William Backus states that when his father came here in 1838, there were only four houses on Myrtle Avenue from Broadway to the Brooklyn City Hall, and he remembers when, as a young man, he himself went to market, the Myrtle Avenue car barns and terminals

were at Marcy Avenue, and when in 1872, or thereabouts, the site of the present Ridgewood Depot, then on what was known as the Ganta Farm (probably part of the Wyckoff estate), was sold to the railroad people at \$4,000 per acre.

Mr. Backus still enjoys attending to his little garden and looking after his property interests. He is a member of the Evergreen Board of Trade, the Ridgewood Reformed Church, Exempt Firemen (Ivanhoe Co.), and Provident Benevolent Association of Maspeth. He was for several years Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the old Glendale School, later known as 67.

There were four children that grew up: Adelaide, who married Alfred (Judge) Denton; Caroline, Henry, whose home is at 4 Van Dorn Street; Elizabeth, a brilliant, ambitious girl who taught at Public School No. 68 for three years and who broke down while pursuing a summer course at Cornell University and died suddenly in September, 1909, after resuming her work at Public School No. 68, where she enjoyed much popularity. The chapter on "Schools" in this history is largely quoted from manuscripts left by Elizabeth Backus. The youngest son, Frederick, is completing his course for a medical diploma at Flower Hospital in New York City.

#### **Samuel Jarvis**

Samuel Jarvis came to Ridgewood in 1868. At that time, he says, there were only about a dozen houses along the road which is now Myrtle Avenue from the Brooklyn Boro line, near where the Ridgewood depot now stands, to near Richmond Hill.

There were the farm houses of Gintder, about where St. Nicholas Avenue joins Myrtle Avenue today; Beck's Hotel or Strobel's, now Kreuscher's; the Covert House at Elm Avenue (then called Myr-

tle Street); the Grotier house, still standing at Covert Avenue and Norman Street; the Peter Kline house at Anthon Avenue, just where the Van Cortland Airdrome now stands, and which was torn down about four years ago; the John Kline house, which still stands just above the brick building which is a part of the Chas. Strelbel's Son Iron Works, now occupied by a daughter of John Kline, Mrs. George Stockoff.

Near the southwest corner of Myrtle Avenue and Fresh Pond Road was the home of "Rope Walk" John DeBevoise, which still stands on Yale Avenue just off Myrtle Avenue, where it has recently been moved.

Near the southeast corner, not far from where Unity Hall now stands, was the Backus house.

Near the northwest corner was the old Peter DeBevoise house, which still stands on the old site, and back off the road near the northeast corner, was the old original DeBevoise Homestead, a yellow house which has been demolished long since.

Most of the farms here mentioned were at that time or had been parts of some one of the several old DeBevoise farms.

Mr. Jarvis first leased a farm with his father-in-law on Cooper Avenue, opposite the present Liberty Park. He kept a large number of cows and had a large milk business in Brooklyn for years.

He was born November 1st, 1840, on his father's farm at Flushing and Throop avenue. His father, Witson Jarvis, and his mother, both being descendants from old Quaker families of Long Island.

He married Harriet Ann Stammers, of New York, in June, 1868. In 1888, he bought from Henry Harmon what had been part of a DeBevoise farm and built his present home on Myrtle Avenue, between Decatur Street and Dill Place,

and a large barn for his cows, which latter he demolished when he retired from the milk business to become an Inspector of Dairies for the detection of infected cows, appointed by the National Government under President Harrison.

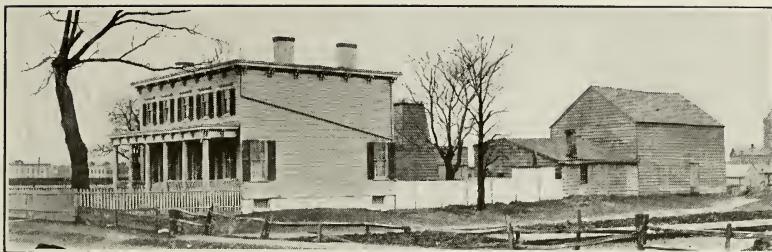
He served later during the entire term of Sheriff Doht as a warden of the Queens County jail. Since then he has been a court attendant of the County Court at Long Island City.

He is a member of the Exempt Firemen's Association of Newtown; was a member also of the Ivanhoe Fire Company, and when he first came to Ridgewood, he became an active member of the old South End Reform Association. He also was a trustee of the old Cooper Avenue school for three terms, serving with Ditmas Kollyer, W. H. Denton, Frank L. Bowers, J. Banzer, James Gascoine, George Bennett and Mr. Cooper.

He is an active member of the Ridgewood Reformed Church; has been Assistant Superintendent of its Sunday



MR. SAMUEL J. H. JARVIS



## OLD MEYERROSE HOMESTEAD

Woodward Avenue near Cornelia Street. Built by Joachim Meyerrose in 1856. Removed by the Matthews' Company, July, 1911, to make way for a row of modern, six family houses

School for years, and was one of the founders of the Sunday School in the Cooper Avenue School, of which this church is an outgrowth.

There are two children; Sara Susanna, who married Sanford Butcher and Samuel J. H. Jarvis.

**Samuel J. H. Jarvis**

Samuel J. H. Jarvis was born on his father's old farm at Cooper Avenue, near the old school house, in August, 1877, and has lived in Ridgewood all his life. He attended old No. 9 School and later No. 26 on Gates Avenue, Brooklyn.

October, 1904, he married Edith Hellman, whose father had a hotel at Cooper and Cypress Avenues for several years, and has a little son, Samuel J. H., Jr., born March, 1912.

Mr. Jarvis is at present clerk of Station J Post Office, which position he has held since 1899. He was a Deputy Warden under Sheriff Doht from 1895 to 1898.

He is a member of Mispah Lodge No. 738, F. and A. M., of Elmhurst, and of Grace Episcopal Church, Jamaica.

**The Meyerrose Family**

Joachim Meyerrose came from Bremen in 1844 with three cents in his pocket. This three cents his son Joseph

(the ex-Sheriff) now keeps in a big safe. He secured a place on "Rope Walk" John DeBevoise's farm and worked there for about a year; then he rented a farm at 56th Street and Bloomingdale Road (now Broadway), Manhattan. This farm ran down to the North River and was owned by a Frenchman who would not have been a "piker," even on the Broadway and 56th Street of today. He spent his money freely and was often in need of funds. He would then urge his tenants to buy one or two of these Broadway lots for four or five hundred dollars; for corners he asked six hundred. Joachim Meyerrose used to regret in later years that he withheld these offers and saved his money to invest it in Ridgewood farm lands. He saw the value of the Manhattan lots jump in value from \$500 to \$20,000 within a period of four or five years. He did not live to see the increasing values of recent years when the city's growth began in Ridgewood and Queens County in general.

Joachim Meyerrose married Mary Grimm, who also had recently arrived from Germany, within a year or two of his going to Manhattan. In 1856 he bought his first nine acres from his old employer, John DeBevoise, and then the Boltmann farm, which has been the

Schummacher farm—about thirty acres, more or less. The Meyerrose farm then consisted of a tract bounded by Woodward Avenue, Elm Avenue, the Railroad Track and Covert Avenue, and cost him about \$18,000.\* He built the homestead on the northwest corner of Woodward Avenue and Cornelia Street, which, fifty-five years later (July, 1911) was torn down by the Mathews', who had purchased about fifteen acres of the Meyerrose farm to build the blocks of flats for which they are distinguished. Joachim Meyerrose died in 1892 and is buried in the family plot at Lutheran Cemetery, Middle Village.

He was survived by two sons, Richard and Joseph, and a daughter, Margaret (Mrs. Martin H. Brunjes.)

#### **Richard Meyerrose**

Richard Meyerrose was born November 11th, 1848, on the farm at 56th Street and Broadway, Manhattan. He attended a little two-story brick public school building at 47th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues, not far from his father's home, and later, when his father came to Ridgewood, he attended the little school in East Williamsburg on Forest Avenue, between Metropolitan Avenue and Bleecker Street.

While his parents attended a German Lutheran Church on South 9th Street, Williamsburg, little Richard was sent to a nearby Dutch Reformed Sunday School, connected with a little church whose building is now occupied by the S. Jacobs & Sons on Flushing Avenue. He recalls a Mr. Beekman, for whom

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\* The original Meyerrose farm consisted of about twenty acres, bounded as above. The first parcel, consisting of about three and one-half acres, was sold to St. Matthias' Church, while the remaining 16 9-16 acres were sold to the Mathews in 1911 for over \$20,000 per acre, which is the highest price that has ever yet been paid for acreage in Queens County. The taxes on this property had, meantime, increased from \$90 per year in 1890 to \$6,000 per year in 1910. It had also paid a number of heavy assessments.

his respect and admiration is still keen, who lived at the northwest corner of Woodward and Flushing Avenues, and who was his Sunday School teacher and who sometimes occupied the pulpit of the little church on Sundays, when there were no clergymen to take charge.

As he grew up he worked on his father's farm and drove to Washington Market with the product. He married Catherine Torborg in 1877 and in 1876, on his return from market one day, opened a hay and grain market at 1576-80 Myrtle Avenue. In 1882 he formed a partnership with Martin H. Brunjes (who had married his sister Margaret) and the business was enlarged to include seeds and implements, as well as hay and grain. In 1896 the business was again divided, Mr. Brunjes continuing the seed and implement branch, while Mr. Meyerrose and his sons retained the hay and grain branch.

Five years ago Mr. Meyerrose built a house for his family at 481 Welling Street, Richmond Hill, and left the house at 1576-80 Myrtle Avenue, which he had occupied for thirty-six years.

The business has since been moved also to 1576 Gates Avenue.

Mr. Meyerrose is a member of St. John's English Lutheran Church in Richmond Hill. He had two sons and three daughters: Richard, John, Adeleine, Lillie and Emily. The sons have been associated with the business for years. Richard, who married Margaret Van Horn of Brooklyn, died August 4th, 1908. Lillie married William Meirdierek in January, 1912, and lives at 21 Foxall Street.

#### **John Meyerrose**

John Meyerrose, son of Richard Meyerrose, was born in 1878, at 1576-80 Myrtle Avenue, and has been associated with his father's hay and grain business since he left school. He is at present

the manager of the business. He married Adeline Harr of Ridgewood and has a little daughter: Adeliade, eight years of age. He is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Richmond Hill, and of the Ridgewood Democratic Club and resides at 123 Foxall Street.

#### **Joseph Meyerrose**

Joseph Meyerrose was born May 12th, 1859, in the house built by his father, Joachim Meyerrose, on Woodward Avenue. He attended the local schools and worked on the farm and drove the wagon to market for his father. In March, 1880, he married Anna Brunjes, daughter of George Brunjes, who owned what later became the Rathjen farm. They have three children: Alice, who married Frank Adel; Minnie, who married Chas. B. Van Sise, and George, who married Christine Kline, all of whom live in houses adjoining the land on which stands Joseph Meyerrose's magnificent new house, Forest Avenue corner Cornelia Street.

Mr. Meyerrose worked a farm of seventy-five or eighty acres for years, even while he was prominent in the political life of this section. Besides the old Meyerrose farm, he hired the old Hultz, Van Sise and Covert farms, from Fresh Pond Road to Eagles' Nest.\*

For more than thirty-five years "Joe" Meyerrose has been prominent in the politics of Ridgewood and Queens County and has always prided himself on his regularity in Democratic party affairs.

He was for fifteen years a road overseer of the Township of Newtown (what is now the Second Ward of Queens



MR. JOSEPH MEYERROSE

County). He served for six years on the Board of Health, under supervisors N. F. Gibbs and Joseph Bermel, and was Superintendent of Highways for the Second Ward for seven years. In 1898, at the time of the consolidation of Greater New York, he was Supervisor of Schools and incurred the displeasure of the City authorities by paying all the teachers and school employees the money due them before turning over the funds to the City department. He felt that there was no valid reason for compelling the teachers to wait perhaps for months until the city's bookkeepers got around to the matter of paying these salaries, when the money for the purpose was still in his hands.

He was always a good friend of the principals and teachers and braved much criticism while he held this office for raising the salaries of the hardworking, underpaid teachers of the old days. He boldly declared that the pay offered teachers, who has spent years in preparation, was niggardly, and was almost defeated for re-election because he

\* The vicinity of Father Hauptman's Church, on Onderdonk and Covert Avenues (a part of the Covert farm), was known for years as Eagles' Nest, probably with reference to the elevation of the land at that point; partly because, in the hands of a buyer who had paid too high a price for it, it laid idle and was overgrown with wild brush. It was, for a time, notorious as the rendezvous of ruffians.

raised the salary of William H. Dumond, then Supervising Principal (who now receives \$3,500 as Principal of a single school), from \$800 to \$1,000 per year, and whom he always maintained was too good a teacher and too able an executive to be so poorly appreciated.

In 1903 he was elected Sheriff of Queens County for a three-year term, 1904-06, by a large majority.

In 1897 he was prevailed upon to help his party in an emergency by accepting the nomination for County Clerk, to fill a vacancy on the ticket. There was no time left to make a campaign of more than a week or two, but he polled more than 47,000 votes and made a splendid showing in the midst of the Republican landslide in which the election that year resulted.

Mr. Meyerrose helped organize and is a life member of the Elks (Long Island City), a member of the Eagles of Long Island City, the Democratic Club of Long Island City, Treasurer of the Second Ward Democratic Club, and a member of other prominent Democratic Clubs in Jamaica, Flushing and elsewhere. He is also a member of the Lutheran Church at Middle Village.

He is an ardent gunner and has made trips to North Carolina during the open season for the last fifteen years, where he has slept in the bed used by Grover Cleveland, when he used to hunt and fish in the same regions, some forty-odd miles inland from Virginia Beach.

#### **Frank Adel**

Frank Adel was born in Manhattan October 11th, 1883. His father, Jacob Adel, brought his family to Ridgewood in 1892, and thus Frank has been a resident of Ridgewood for over twenty years. He is the youngest of the family which consists of: Carrie, who married George Flagg, of Myrtle Avenue and George Street; Charles, and Edward,



MR. FRANK ADEL

who live in Middle Village; William, who lives with his parents at 672 Cornelia Street, and George, who lives at 380 Covert Avenue. By the time he was twenty years of age, Frank was a graduate of St. Lawrence University and of Law School, having taken both courses simultaneously and finishing both courses in the spring of 1903. He was only a few days beyond the required age of twenty-one when, on November 19th, 1903, he was admitted to the Bar.

On December 3d, 1906, he married Alice M. Meyerrose, daughter of Joseph Meyerrose, and there is a little daughter, Ruth Meyerrose Adel, now five years of age.

In July, 1912, Mr. Adel was appointed Assistant District Attorney of Queens County by District Attorney M. J. Smith.

Mr. Adel is a member of the Exempt Firemen's Association, having served as Foreman of the Ivanhoe Company, 1908-09; of the Queens County Bar Association, St. Lawrence University

Alumni Association, the Lutheran Church at Middle Village and about every Democratic Association of the Second Ward.

He is a base-ball enthusiast and still plays in a game every week in what remains of the once famous Meyerrose Atlantic League Base Ball Field. He is also a skillful swimmer and very fond of motoring.

#### **Charles Bergen Van Sise**

Charles Bergen Van Sise, the confectioner, of 173 Forest Avenue, was born January 12th, 1880, at Forest and Elm Avenues, where his father, George Van Sise, had a dairy farm.

Charles Van Sise grew up in Ridgewood and has lived here all his life. He attended the old school on Cooper Avenue and finished at old number 9, after which he took a course at Wright's Business College.

January, 1904, he was appointed a warden of the County Jail, under Sheriff Joseph Meyerrose, and in September of the same year married Minnie A.



MR. CHARLES BERGEN VAN SISE

Meyerrose, daughter of the Sheriff.

He served as warden under Mr. Meyerrose's successors, Harvey and Quinn, until February, 1910, and in July of that year opened the beautifully appointed confectionery and ice cream establishment on Forest Avenue.

He is a member of the Second Ward Democratic Club, Democratic Club of Queens County (Long Island City), Elmhurst Democratic Club, Twenty-second Election District Democratic Club, Evergreen Lodge 333, F. and A. M.; Bushwick Council, Royal Arcanum; and a Volunteer Fireman of Engine Company No. 12, of Metropolitan Avenue near Fresh Pond Road, and of the Exempt Firemen's Association of Newtown.

His favorite recreations are hunting and bowling.

#### **Martin J. Brunjes**

Martin J. Brunjes was born in Manhattan, January 6th, 1852, but came to Ridgewood with his parents in 1855, and so has lived here since he was three years of age. He attended the old school on Cooper Avenue and worked on his father's farm on Cypress Avenue.

He married Margaret Meyerrose, sister of Joseph Meyerrose, who, four years later reciprocated by marrying Mr. Brunjes' sister Anna.

In 1882, in company with Richard Meyerrose, he established the seed and implement business, which is now located at 1581 Myrtle Avenue, and whose customers are scattered all over the Eastern States. At first most of the business was done with local farmers; but as the farms in this section gave way to the builders of homes for thousands of people, the most of the business is done by mail, through the aid of a handsome annual catalogue and a well-organized correspondence department. Many of the customers from New Jersey,

New York and other nearby States, however, are members of families who left Ridgewood to take up farming elsewhere and who still continue to depend for their supplies on the Brunjes' house. Then there are, of course, hundreds of local householders who delight in their well-kept flower gardens and who are good customers of Mr. Brunjes and his sons: John Edward, William Henry and George Richard, who are all associated with him in the business.

Besides the sons mentioned, there is a daughter, Emily. Mr. Brunjes' home is at 317 Wyckoff Avenue, corner Gates.

#### **Henry W. Meyer**

Henry W. Meyer, who initiated so many promising projects in Ridgewood and who, in the few years he lived here, was setting the pace for the whole community in the matter of energetic enterprise and progress, died at the early age of forty-eight, before he had completed his various ambitious local undertakings, but not before he had impressed forever his name and reputation for accomplishment upon the memory of Ridgewood.

Mr. Meyer was born in Germany and came to America in 1864, at the age of fourteen, with a patrimony of \$300 in his pockets. He went to work as a "greenhorn" for a grocer on Grand Street and Bushwick Avenue in Williamsburg. At first, it is said, he slept under the counter. He worked here for seven years and then bought out his employer's business, which is said to have been run down largely through the granting of indiscriminate credit to customers.

A department of this business had been the jobbing of tobacco to small retailers. This end of the business Mr. Meyer began to build up at once, and in the course of eight or ten years he had more than twenty wagons covering various routes in place of the single



THE 285th PRECINCT POLICE STATION

wagon with which he started. He sold for cash only and was very successful. He opened a factory at 812 Grand Street, where he began to manufacture his own tobaccos, notably the famous "Ivanhoe" brand.

About 1886, he came to Ridgewood and built the tobacco factory which still stands at Fresh Pond Road close to the Long Island R. R. tracks, although since about 1897 (a couple of years after Mr. Meyer sold his tobacco business to the American Tobacco Company), it has been occupied first, by the Meyer Paper Box Company,\* and until August, 1912, by the Bornn Hat Company. It will shortly be demolished to make way for residences.

In 1888, a couple of years after establishing his factory here, he began acquiring property and came here to live; first in a house on Myrtle Avenue near Cooper, and later in the old Edsall-Ringe house on Fresh Pond Road opposite Foxall Street. Later he built the big house back of this, at Grant Street and Elm Avenue, now occupied as the Police Station of the 285th Precinct.

He also bought most of the old Kohler Farm, facing on Cooper Avenue, and was laying it out for a magnificent

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\* Not a relative of H. W. Meyer.

recreation park at the time of his death. This property is now leased and conducted under the name of Liberty Park, with its entrance facing Dill Place.

There was no water supply service or nearby fire protection when Mr. Meyer began his operations in this section. He promptly supplied both, organizing the Ivanhoe Fire Company, which he financed and equipped from his own pocket. It at first consisted of employes of his factory.

The tank and pumping station still stand on the property between the Police Station and Fresh Pond Road.

Mr. Meyer died October 3d, 1898, survived by his widow, Laurinda V. (Evans) Meyer, and two sons and two daughters.

#### **Henry W. Meyer, Jr.**

Elder son of H. W. Meyer, after the death of his father, went to California, where he has been very successful in developing town sites, following the methods of his father. He married Florence Moore, of Cleveland, Ohio, and lives in Pasadena, California.

#### **Charles K. Meyer**

The other son of H. W. Meyer has a large ranch at San Diego, California.

#### **Henry Thomsen**

Who married, first Nettie D., daughter of H. W. Meyer, and later, following her death, married her sister Fanny, is the representative of the family interests in Ridgewood at present.

He was first appointed an administrator and recently, when the most of the estate was taken over by the Ivanhoe Company, a corporation organized for the purpose, Mr. Thomsen became President and Treasurer, and actually the manager of the properties. H. W. Meyer, Jr., is Vice-President and Assistant Treasurer, and Fanny Thomsen is Secretary, with Mr. James S. Angus as Assistant Secretary.

Sixty-five acres, comprising most of the property adjoining 357 Fresh Pond Road, but excepting the building and grounds occupied by the Police Station, which is the exclusive property of Mr. Meyer's widow during her life-time, has been laid out into building lots and streets are being cut through, ready to be put on the market next Spring.

Mr. Thomsen and his wife and Mrs. Laurinda Meyer live at 203 Columbus Street, Pasadena, California, but have been spending the summers in the old house on Fresh Pond Road for several years.

#### **The Wagner Family**

Back in the early part of the last century the grandfather of Henry H. Wagner, of Buchman Avenue, came with his family from Baden, Germany, and settled on the old Duryea Farm in the neighborhood of Evergreen Avenue and Hancock Street.

He had seven children, Henry (father of Henry H. Wagner referred to above), Mrs. Joseph Wolf, Mrs. John Walters, Frederick, Elizabeth (who married Herman Ringe), Mrs. Knoll and Mrs. Charles H. Ringe.

Henry married Marie B. Rabel and there were nine children who grew up; Henry H. (already referred to), Caroline (Mrs. Andrew Betz), Philip, George F. (who lives at Southington, Conn.,) John, Mrs. Anna Miller, of Forest Hills, Charles, George J. and W. H. Wagner.

#### **Mr. Charles Wagner**

Mr. Charles Wagner, another son, resides in a modest home at 54 Buchman Avenue. He was born in the old home-stead on June 22d, 1873, and on January 16th, 1911, he married Anna Birkmeyer.

Mr. Charles Wagner is not identified with any local societies, but has always taken an interest in the section in which he has grown up.

### **Henry H. Wagner**

Was born in Brooklyn December, 1857, but his family moved to Ridgewood when he was five years old and all his brothers and sisters were born on the farm in Ridgewood.

The original Edsall Farm, which extended from one or two hundred yards back of the old Remsen Farm (which became one of the DeBevoise farms), and along Fresh Pond Road, including too a good part of what is now the Lutheran Cemetery, was divided approximately along the line of the present B. R. T. elevated extension from Fresh Pond station to the Cemetery, between Richard Edsall and his sister, who married George Lahr. This was about the time of the Civil War.

The share that lay towards Myrtle Avenue then became known as the Lahr Farm. The Wagner family at first leased this and later purchased it.

The old Lahr house, afterwards occu-

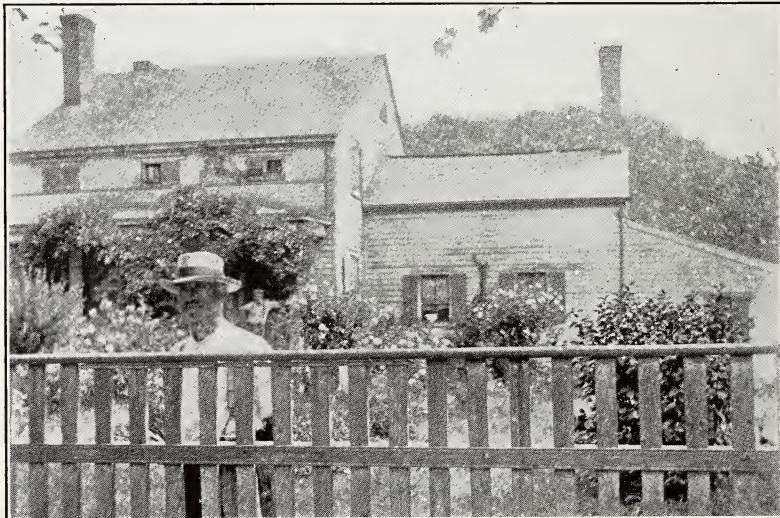
pied by the Wagner's, still stands on Fresh Pond Road diagonally across from Public School No. 88.

Henry H. Wagner grew up and attended the old Cooper Avenue School with his brothers and sisters. He worked as a young man on his father's farm, and when, in 1884, he married Anne Bowden, of Middle Village, he went into the milk business in Brooklyn.

In recent years, he has been a contractor, and employs in his business one of the famous Vulcan steam shovels, which does quick and economical work in excavations for the foundations of buildings.

He has two children, Harry (who married Minnie Fondi, of Ridgewood, a couple of years ago) and Anna.

Mr. Wagner's home is at 46 Buckman Avenue. He is a member of the St. James Park Improvement Association and of the Lutheran Church of the Covenant.



**WAGNER-LAHR HOUSE**

Fresh Pond Road, opposite Silver Street. (Henry H. Wagner in foreground)

**Andrew Betz**

A contractor for building operations, living at Myrtle Avenue and Fresh Pond Road, was born in Jamaica March, 1866. His father's family is identified with the history of the Lutheran Church at Jamaica.

In April, 1891, he was married to Caroline Wagner, the wedding being celebrated at the old Wagner home on Fresh Pond Road.

Mr. Betz was formerly in the grocery business in Brooklyn; but for the last six or seven years has devoted his attention to the contracting business in Ridgewood.

He has a daughter, who married W. F. Schmidt and lives at 300 Grove Street.

Mr. Betz has been identified with the establishment of the Lutheran Church of the Covenant and St. James Park Improvement Association.

**Charles Kiefer**

Charles Kiefer, father of Mrs. Wm. H. Wagner, was born June 30th, 1842, in Baden, Germany, and came to America in 1846. He established and sold numerous cafes with profit, and on June 30th, the day when the licenses in Brooklyn expired and the increased licenses went into effect, he moved his business to Elm Avenue, where Mordick's Elm Grove now is. He now added a beer bottling department to his regular business and soon established a route that not only covers the Ridgewood section, but spread into Brooklyn and into many outlying districts in Queens. The beer bottling business is now conducted from 25 Fresh Pond Road, and Mr. Kiefer has customers as far distant as Flatbush.

Mr. Kiefer is a member of Odd Fellows, Socrates Lodge No. 223, and the Brooklyner Druiden, Gegenseitigung Kranken Unterstuetzung Verein.

He married Christina Yunker, February 3d, 1865, and by her has five children: Anna, Barbara, Elizabeth, Charles and Dorothea.

**Frederick Stroebel**

The Stroebel family settled in Greater Ridgewood in 1859, the family consisting at that time of Frederick Stroebel, his wife Barbara and one child, Rosie S., who was then two years of age.

Frederick took in charge the hotel which is now known as Kreuscher's Hotel, but which at that time had been erected by Andrew Beck, father of John Beck, on land which belonged to Nicholas Wyckoff, father of Peter Wyckoff. The land at that time was thick woodland, but Beck realized the business value of a hotel at this point and, after buying the property, he made a clearing and erected the hotel, which still stands at the corner of Cypress and Myrtle avenues. The hotel later passed into the hands of the Stroebel family. Frederick Stroebel was a prominent figure in the political and civic life of his day and was twice Overseer of the Poor for the Town of Newtown.

The Stroebel children were: Rosie S., already mentioned, and Frederick Stroebel, Jr., deceased. Frederick Stroebel, Jr., married Louise Antrisch, a niece of John Reimers, and by her had three children, Frederick, Jr., who is now in the West, and Arthur and Elsie, both of whom are living in Brooklyn.

**John Kreuscher**

Rosie S. Stroebel married John Kreuscher, of Brooklyn, in 1879, and the hotel passed into the hands of Mr. Kreuscher at that time.

Mr. Kreuscher became actively identified with the political and civic life of the section, serving in the Local Board of Education and later becoming a candidate for election as Justice of the Peace

in which, however, he was defeated. He was always active in local politics and attained considerable local political prominence in his day.

The hotel also became famous in connection with the many big County Conventions that were held within its four walls and in the very early days, before the establishment of Ridgewood Park, its picnic grounds, which adjoined the hotel, was the Mecca for all the big pleasure seeking societies of that day. The place Nolte Brothers now occupy was at one time a dining room with accommodations for seating five hundred people and an underground shooting gallery, as well as other picnic accommodations.

The hotel, too, became a famous trysting place for farmers from all parts of Long Island, who stopped here over night on their way to the Washington Market, and later became a stopping-

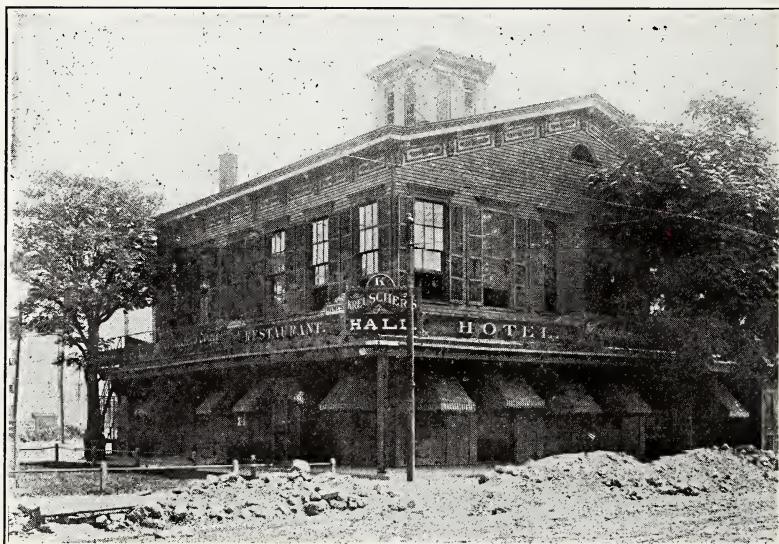
place for all kinds of pleasure vehicles coming from New York City through Johnson and Cypress Avenues, bound for the old Union Course Race Track. The hotel is still the property of Mrs. Kreuscher.

Mrs. Kreuscher speaks interestingly of the old private school that was housed in the same wooden structure adjoining the hotel, and refers to Mr. John Welz and other well-known men who attended there.

The Kreuscher family have three children: Blanca, Albert and Frederick.

Blanca married Louis Berger, President of the Ridgewood National Bank, whose biography will be found among the individual biographies.

Albert is up-State and Frederick, who is married to Mabel A. Carter, is at present managing the Kreuscher Hotel.



KREUSCHER'S HOTEL

Myrtle and Cypress Avenues, as it appeared at time of repaving of  
Cypress Avenue in 1912



MR. FREDERICK C. KREUSCHER

**Frederick C. Kreuscher**

Frederick C. Kreuscher was born in the Kreuscher Hotel on November 30th, 1883. He has been closely identified with the growth and development of the section, and as manager of the hotel property for his mother, he has made many improvements on the property that have indicated his desire to keep pace with the needs and exigencies of the times, so that, while the hotel itself is still intact as it was fifty-three years ago, extensive interior alterations and improvements have been made to the hall and cafe that make it a first-class and modern hostelry where many of the most prominent business men dine and meet. Mr. Kreuscher is a member of Order of Elks, Queensboro Lodge; Jr. O. U. A. M., Pilgrim Council; Ridgewood Democratic Club, Unity Democratic Club and numerous other political and social organizations.

**Frank Lyons**

The grandfather of Frank Lyons, Patrick Lyons, who was born in Ireland, came to Ridgewood in 1854 and settled on Cypress Hills, where he undertook

to raise cattle and hogs for the market. He was very successful and acquired more than 35 acres of very desirable property on both sides of the Cypress Hills Plank Road above Cooper Avenue. His son James was associated with him in the business and succeeded him. James had four children: Mary (Mrs. McNulty), who still resides in the old homestead on the top of a hill, which affords a beautiful view of all Ridgewood to the north and east; James, who now lives on Foxall Street; Catherine (wife of State Senator James O'Brien, of East New York), and Frank, the subject of this sketch.

Frank was born January, 1867, and attended the old school on Cooper Avenue. He has lived all his life in this section of the city.

Some years ago he began the manufacture of inks and lamp black, and later of tar paper for roofing. He had, up to a short time ago, a paper mill and complete plant in a building adjoining the old homestead, but has since removed



MR. FRANK LYONS

the works to Newtown Creek, near Pennybridge.

For some years it has been a problem with the family as to what disposition would be best for the property on Cypress Hills, which has long since been practically surrounded by cemeteries.

After several negotiations for its sale had failed, because of this situation, it was finally decided to incorporate a cemetery company, which was finally done. The company was incorporated in 1908, the necessary act having been passed through the State Legislature by Senator O'Brien. It was found that its main chance for success was by making it a Jewish cemetery and it was accordingly named Mt. Judah, and several Jewish societies have already purchased burial plots in the first section, which was laid out on the east side of Cypress Avenue.

The stock is all held by the Lyons family, Frank Lyons being the President, Treasurer and General Manager.

Mr. Lyons is a member of the Evergreen Board of Trade, Knights of Columbus, Unity Democratic Club and Catholic Benevolent Legion.

In 1897, he married Catherine Kilcoybe, of Brooklyn, and has two sons: James, age 14, and Frank, age 12. His home is at 1264 Hancock Street.

### The Rathjen Family

John Henry Rathjen, an only son, came here from Germany in 1837. He married Margaret Hinken and settled down on the part of the Bergen farm which had been cultivated by the father of Martin H. Brunjes for some years previous. This farm, which was later acquired by John Henry Rathjen and which was long after known as the Rathjen farm, ran from Cooper Avenue to a little beyond Summerfield, and on both sides of Cypress Ave-

nue and adjoined the J. M. DeBevoise farm. He left nine children. Mary, married William H. Denton, of whose family an account appears under the Denton family. Two other Rathjen girls married into the Denton family: Matilda, who married Isaac Denton, and Anna, who also married Isaac, upon the death of her sister. This Mrs. Denton is now a widow and lives with her three daughters: Etta, Lillian and Grace, at 1260 Hancock Street. Another daughter, Daisy, married William Jebens and lives at Elmhurst; she has three small children. Her oldest daughter married George Lang.

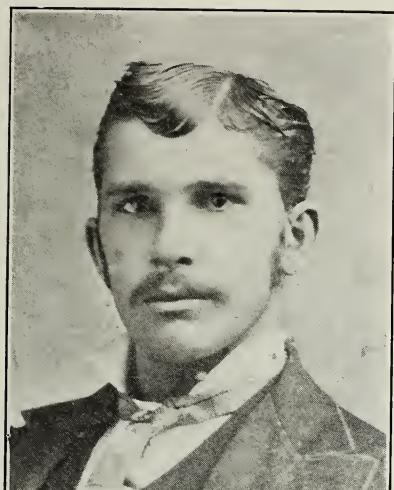
Wilhelmina married John Brunjes, who for some years had a prosperous grocery store at Cypress Avenue corner Smith Street, but who has since retired and lives at 183 Smith Street. He was for some years an overseer of the poor and is still keenly interested in civic matters. They have two daughters: Ida, who married Augustus Schlecht and lives at 183 Smith Street, and Angel, who married Charles Lehman, has three little children: Charles, Mildred and Violet, and lives on Putnam Avenue near Myrtle.

Sophia married George Schwartz.

John married Lena Smith and had three children: Freda, Margaret and John.

Henry married Clara Bennett, has two daughters: Ethel, whose engagement was announced in the Ridgewood Times last June, and Clarabell, and lives on Smith Street near Cypress.

Augustus, who lives with his sister Mary on Cooper Avenue, was born April 20th, 1862, in Brooklyn. He was a builder for many years but is now retired. He is unmarried. Dora, who married Edwin Christiansen, of Glendale, died recently and left a daughter, Dorothea, who lives in Glendale at the home of her paternal grandfather.



MR. GEORGE SCHWARTZ

**George Schwartz**

George Schwartz, who married Sophie Rathjen November 23rd, 1879, was born in Brooklyn in 1855. Mr. Schwartz was in the milk business for twenty-six years and lived in the old McBride house on Lafayette Avenue for nine years previous to moving to his present address, 48 Webster Avenue, where the family has been living for the last twenty-three years.

There are six children: George Reynold, who married Clara G. Folk and has three children: George A., Frank A., and Lester A.; Gescha M., who married Louis H. Eickoff, no children; John, Frank, Charles and Augusta.

**Wyckoff Family**

The common ancestor of the Wyckoff family in this country was Pieter Claesz Wyckoff, who emigrated from Holland in 1636 and settled at Flatlands. Riker, in 1852, in his "Annals" writes that it would be difficult to trace the descendants, who are now "as the stars in multitude."

**Nicholas Wyckoff**

The branch of the family with which we are interested is that of Nicholas Wyckoff, who was one of the first settlers in our section. Nicholas died about the year 1814, leaving three sons: Peter, Nicholas N. and Folkert. By the father's will, Folkert and Nicholas N. came in possession of the farm lands. Folkert died intestate, leaving as his heirs, his brothers, Peter and Nicholas N. They made partnership and Peter, together with his wife, Gertrude, conveyed his interest in the aforesaid farm to Nicholas N.

**Nicholas N. Wyckoff**

At his death, Nicholas N. left a widow, Catherine, and six children as follows: Catherine, Nicholas (unmarried), James W. (wife later of Peter P. Schoonmaker), Henrietta R. (wife of Peter A. Meserole), Catherine Ann (wife of John Nostrand), Mary Elizabeth, who married Henry Clifford February 28th, 1850, and died intestate October 21st, 1854, without issue; and Susan Amelia, or Amanda, (wife later of William Harris), who participated in the partition of the Wyckoff estate.

Nicholas Wyckoff, one of the said heirs, died August 15th, 1850, intestate, unmarried and without issue.

**Peter Wyckoff**

Peter Wyckoff, son of Nicholas Wyckoff, was born at the old Wyckoff home-stead on Flushing Avenue February 27th, 1828, and died February 9th, 1910. He pursued farming, as his ancestors did before him, but later he became a conspicuous figure in the section's development. He was president of the Bushwick Railroad, director of the First National Bank, director of the Williamsburg Savings Bank and of the Williamsburg City Fire Insurance Company, a

charter member of the aristocratic societies known as the Holland Society and St. Nicholas Society, and was identified with much other institutional work.

On January 2d, 1851, he married Catherine M. Rappelya, and by her had three children: Anna R. (wife of John E. Van Nostrand), Sara Maria (wife of M. B. Streeter) and Charles R. (deceased).

#### **Charles R. Wyckoff**

Charles R. Wyckoff, whose two sons: Charles Rappelya and Clarence, were the first in the family, aside from their father, to receive baptismal names other than those that their fathers had had for generations, was the only son of Peter Wyckoff.

#### **Norman Van Nostrand**

Closely identified with the Wyckoff family is the Van Nostrand family, whose ancestors came from Nordstrand in Holland in 1640. The first settler in our section of this family was Norman Van Nostrand, who came here from New York City in 1838 and settled on a tract of farmland occupying about forty acres and adjoining the extensive Wyckoff tract and Bergen farm on the east and the Cooper and Covert farms on the west, and extending from Cooper Avenue right down to where it met the Wyckoff farm on North Street.

Norman Van Nostrand married Catherine Ann Everitt, by whom he had ten children, six of whom are still living: Abram, Ann Maria Harris, Harriet Shute, Eliza Van Wyck, Kate Van Nostrand and John E. Van Nostrand.

#### **John E. Van Nostrand**

John E. Van Nostrand was born in the old Van Nostrand homestead that stood until a short time ago in the vicinity of

Manhattan Railroad Crossing and Cooper Avenue.

He began life on the farm; but when he reached the age of twenty-four, he took up law, entering Columbia College, from which he graduated with honors in 1874.

He was highly respected and honored among his neighbors and fellow townsmen, as was his father before him, and for eight terms he was honored with the office of Supervisor of the Town of Newtown and at one time was chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Queens County, although elected as a Republican and living in a town that was overwhelmingly Democratic.

On October 5th, 1881, he married Anna R. Wyckoff (deceased), who was a daughter of Peter Wyckoff, and by her he has three children: Norman Wyckoff Van Nostrand, Katherine R. Hoyt (wife of John R. Hoyt) and Helen Van Nostrand Meyer, wife of George C. Meyer (son of Cord Meyer.)

Mr. Van Nostrand was one of the organizers and at present is a trustee of the Holland Society, as well as president of the St. Nicholas Society.

His hobby is "work," as he expresses it, and his successful and extensive law practice reflects the fact.

Mr. Van Nostrand is at present living with one of his daughters at Great Neck, L. I.

#### **Norman Wyckoff Van Nostrand**

Norman Wyckoff Van Nostrand, son of John E. Van Nostrand, was born at the home of his parents on Wyckoff Avenue at Ridgewood in 1882. He attended school at the Adelphi Academy and the Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn: upon graduating from the latter, he entered Columbia University, where he graduated in 1905, obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

He then entered the law school of Columbia and finished the usual course of three years in two and received the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

He was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in 1908 and immediately commenced the practice of his profession.

On October 10th, 1912, he married Miss M. Lillian Parks of the borough of Brooklyn.

#### Milton B. Streeter

Milton B. Streeter, who married Sara Maria Wyckoff June 14th, 1882, was born at Berlin, N. Y., September 1st, 1847, and is the descendant of an old and honored English family whose ancestry can be traced as far back as 1642.

There are four children: Samuel Wyckoff, Daniel Dennison, Sarah and Milford B.

Mr. Streeter served two short enlistments in the Civil War, enlisting in the 69th Illinois Volunteers and again in the 134th Illinois Volunteers.

He is senior member of the well-known firm of Streeter and Dennison, of Brooklyn.

#### Frederick Ring, Sr.

The Ring family can be traced back to Frederick Ring, Sr., who came from Manhattan and operated a farm on Woodward Avenue prior to 1827.

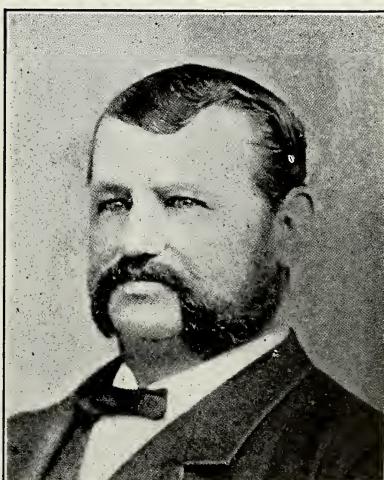
#### Frederick Ring, Jr.

Frederick Ring, Jr., who was born in Manhattan December 24th, 1832, was the eldest son of Frederick Ring and was twelve years of age when he moved with his father to Woodward Avenue, Newtown, L. I. Until twenty years ago, he remained on his father's farm and then opened a grocery store of his own on Grand Street, Brooklyn. Shortly there-

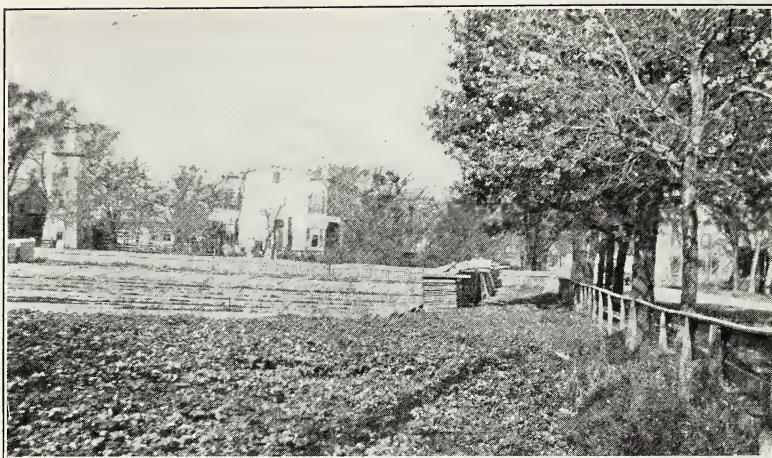
after, he secured the 40-acre White farm at Flushing Avenue and Bushwick Crossroads, which he operated for sixteen years. While still at this place, he bought the farm of sixteen acres on Fresh Pond Road, which became known as the Ring farm, and later erected a beautiful residence on the property, which he occupied until his death.

He retired from active farm life on Fresh Pond Road and became manager of the Kings County Milling Co. of Brooklyn, afterward absorbed by the Standard Milling Co. He beautified the grounds of the Fresh Pond Estate and the expansive lawn extending from what is now Silver Street to Hughes Street and made it one of the attractive places of early Ridgewood. The Ring farm embraced all that land on Fresh Pond Road between Elm Avenue and a line about 100 feet north of Putnam Avenue, and extended westerly to about 100 feet beyond Buchman Avenue.

Mr. Ring gave to the Brooklyn City R. R. Co. the right of way through his estate for the Lutheran Cemetery ex-



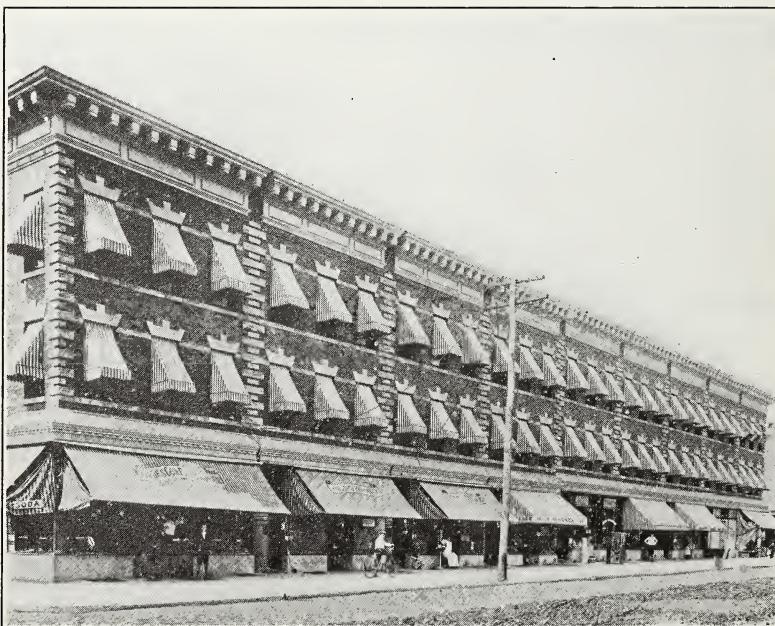
MR. FREDERICK RING, JR.



RING'S FARM, SHOWING FRESH POND ROAD

tension of the Myrtle Avenue elevated road. He was an active member and a deacon of the Old Bushwick Church.

He died on August 24th, 1890, at the



BEAUTIFUL ROW OF MODERN APARTMENT HOUSES ON FRESH POND ROAD  
Built by the Ring-Gibson Company, on the Ring Farm

age of 58 years. His children are: Chas. E. Ring, Walter F. Ring, Mrs. E. R. Brommer, Mrs. Frederick Brommer, Mrs. W. R. A. Carley and Miss M. L. Ring.

#### **Walter F. Ring**

Walter F. Ring, son of Frederick Ring, Jr., has won distinction in connection with the upbuilding of the Fresh Pond Road section of Greater Ridgewood. He was born in 1872 on the Ring farm in the stately white frame house which was situated on Fresh Pond Road south of the railroad tracks. This house was removed in 1910 to Fresh Pond Road between Foxall Street and Van Cortlandt Avenue, where it still stands.

Mr. Ring is one of the directors and organizers of the Ridgewood National Bank, president of the Fresh Pond Road Realty Co. and of the Ring-Gibson Co., which firm has erected quite recently eleven beautiful modern eight-family apartments on Fresh Pond Road and also twenty 3-family store properties, which, with the separate operations of Paul Stier, are giving an impetus and inspiration to the development of this part of the section which is astounding.

In 1895, Mr. Ring married Mary J. Ryder, daughter of an old and distinguished family, and by her has three children: Walter F., Jr., Norman C. and Austin C.

#### **Anton Fluhr**

Anton Fluhr has lived in the neighborhood of Forest Avenue and Metropolitan (where his father had a meat market nearly fifty years ago) almost all his life.

For thirty-one years he has been in the milk business and is still actively engaged therein.

In July, 1881, he married Henrietta Wehle, who had been a playmate when they both attended the little Forest Avenue school in the little one-story



MR. ANTON FLUHR

frame building which still stands across the street from the present Forest Avenue school.

Mr. Fluhr served in later years as a trustee of this same school just before the consolidation of Greater New York.

He is a member of the Exempt Firemen's Association of Newtown and a member of the Metropolitan Fire Company No. 12. He is also a member of the Middle Village Lutheran Church and of the Provident Association.

The Fluhrs have four sons and four daughters: William, the druggist; Fred, the florist, of Richmond Hill; George, and Walter; Mamie, Emma, Elizabeth and Ameria. The Fluhr home is at 61 Forest Avenue.

#### **William Fluhr**

What with the very attractive personality of Mr. Fluhr and the moderate prices and excellent service enjoyed by its patrons, this business is continually growing and prospering. Last July, the Metropolitan Avenue store moved into a new building built and equipped in



MR. WILLIAM A. FLUHR

most up-to-date style by Mr. Fluhr for the better accommodation of its growing business.

Mr. Fluhr married Mary K. Gute, of Middle Village, April 25th, 1906. He is also an enthusiastic fisherman and hunter, and fond of motoring.

He is a member of the Metropolitan Board of Trade, Metropolitan Democratic Club, Third Assembly District Democratic Club, Court Newtown, I. O. O. F.; Exempt Firemen's Association, Town of Newtown; Alumni Association, P. S. 71; and of the Deutsche Apotheke Verein of New York; and the Eberhard Rifle Team of Middle Village.

### Herman Ringe

Herman Ringe, real estate and insurance broker, represents another branch of the Ringe Family which settled in Metropolitan about 1853. Mr. Ringe's father ran a general store in the frame building at Metropolitan and Forest Avenues for many years, and the old building, now more than seventy years old, in which the subject of this sketch was born, still stands.

Mr. Ringe has been prominent in Queens County politics for many years, and served as Secretary of the Borough during 1906, '07, '08, and also as Chief of the Newtown Volunteer Fire Department for two years, as well as Chief of Battalion, and was the first Foreman of Metropolitan Engine Company No. 12. He has been a trustee of the Newtown Fire Department for the past ten years.

His civic activities have been manifold, and any movement for civic betterment has had his active and energetic support.

In 1896 he married Carrie M. Keller, a resident of Middle Village, and their union has been blessed with two sons: Herman Jr. and Lester C.

Mr. Ringe is a member of Mispah Lodge, No. 738, F. and A. M.; Kismet Temple, B. and P. O. Elks, Metropolitan Democratic Club, of which he is president; trustee and treasurer of the Second Ward Democratic Association, etc.

**EDITOR'S NOTE.**—It has been impossible in the short time allowed for the publication of this volume to include all the old families, or all the members of old families who, in many instances, had left the section and could not be reached in time to be included here. As far as possible all these will be included in the course of publication of the supplementary volume to this history.

**PART IV**

**CIVIC BODIES OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD**

## INTRODUCTION

One of the features characteristic of our people is its numerous civic associations organized to promote improvements and give attention to all those things that are necessary for the best welfare of the section. Through the efforts of these bodies, schools have been built, sewers laid, streets paved, lights put in place, transit facilities improved, fire protection secured and many other improvements have been made possible that could not have been accomplished by individual effort.

Greater Ridgewood is able to boast the largest number of these kind of organizations and each one of these has a little history of its own. In most cases, their birth was due to some needed improvement or to some grievance on the part of a number of taxpayers who came together, formed a representative body and launched their fight; then, realizing the necessity of keeping together, regular meetings were held and working committees appointed to look after some particular kind of civic work.

Each of these bodies has its own method of conducting the work it undertakes to accomplish, but usually it is done through committees, and by constant handling of matters of this kind, the members become authorities and are posted on all local conditions, so that they are enabled to inform their associations regarding each improvement or need of improvement and report whether or not the taxpayers will be benefited or harmed by the project.

Since the launching of organizations of this character, improvements have been wonderfully facilitated, but not, of course, without the constant work of the willing members who, in many

instances, have devoted unrequited time and money in order that the interests of their members and the community at large might reap the benefit.

The value of a board of trade in a community is most aptly described in an article, which appeared in the Ridgewood Times October 28th, 1911:

"A Board of Trade, viewed from the citizen's standpoint, is a body of representative citizens that, when in meeting assembled, is, or should be, ever ready to listen to any complaint made by one or more individuals, or any suggestion offered for betterment of conditions affecting all, and, if the grievance is well grounded, or the suggestion worthy of general support, then to act unitedly in having it put into effect.

"A Board of Trade, as viewed by any official or governmental authority or other organized body, is a body whose complaints or suggestions have to be regarded with more respect and attention than is usually given the complaint of the average citizen alone.

"A Board of Trade is, in brief, a 'buffer' between the solitary citizen and the governmental or public service body against whom he may have cause of complaint; ever ready to take up and fight his battle if his cause is a just one, and to assure that cause a hundred-fold greater respect and justice than he could expect to receive if standing alone.

"The citizen who neglects to join such an organization, where one exists, and to attend its meetings with all regularity possible, and to contribute to its maintenance equally with his fellows, is not only lacking in loyalty to the community, but also to his own interests."

## CHAPTER VII

### ALLIED CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD AND EASTERN DISTRICT

The Allied Civic Associations of Greater Ridgewood and the Eastern District is the most powerful of the organizations just mentioned. It was organized on Tuesday, November 7th, 1911, through the efforts of Bernard A.

Ruoff, president of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, and was originally confined to Greater Ridgewood, with the purpose in view of agitating a new terminal at Wyckoff Avenue, and urging the removal of the disgraceful depot and



PHOTO TAKEN AT THE BIG BARBECUE OF THE ALLIED CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT AT RIEBLING'S PARK ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20th, 1912.

Borough President McAneny of Manhattan, in light suit, bottom row

Borough President Connolly of Queens, at his left, and

Sheriff Geo. Emener at his extreme left

car barns that still disfigure this important entrance into the beautiful Queens section of Ridgewood. The new terminal idea was advanced, too, on the strength of inadequate service, the contention being that the makeshift terminal now in use is not properly constructed to meet the increased traffic that now burdens this important intersecting point of the B. R. T. cars. Another demand held forth was for through service with the request that the Myrtle and Bushwick Avenue surface cars be operated as through cars without change to Richmond Hill.

Shortly after the all-important matter of subways came up for the consideration of the city at large, the Allied Civic Associations of Greater Ridgewood merged interests with the civic associations of the Eastern District for the purpose of securing a Union-Square-Ridgewood Subway as part of the city plan. A fight was made, with the result that the Public Service Commission included in the plans a part subway, extending from Union Square to the Bushwick station of the Long Island Railroad, and from there an elevated structure through Wyckoff Avenue, past the Ridgewood Terminal to East New York. The association demanded that a subway be built the entire length, but were assured by the Public Service Commission and the Board of Estimate that the money for a subway the entire distance was not available at the present time or would not be in the next ten years to come, and that it would have to be built part subway and part elevated, or not at all. A public mass meeting was called by the association at Kreuscher's Hall, for the purpose of finding out if the proposition of the commission was acceptable. The meeting was very largely attended by working people, property owners and business men, and it was decided by a vote of

those present to accept the plan as proposed by the Public Service Commission and the Board of Estimate, in view of the fact that a subway for the entire length could not be secured.

The signing of the great Dual plan of Subway and Elevated for the City of New York was celebrated by the Allied Civic Associations with a monster barbecue on June 20th, 1912, at Wm. Riebling's Greater New York Park, at which Borough President McAneny, of Manhattan, Borough President Connolly, of Queens, Public Service Commissioner Williams and many other notables were present.

On the other hand, the signing of the plan brought grief to the Wyckoff Avenue property owners, who were aroused at the thought of an elevated past their doors. The owners immediately organized to fight the project, and although the plans were approved and passed upon, the controversy continued, and at times waxed bitter to the extent of unpleasant personalities. The outcome is being watched by a great many people of the section, especially by the large working class of men and women who are anxious for better transit, and we will probably be able to refer to it again in the supplementary volume to this History.

It is probable that a compromise will be effected by eliminating the proposed Wyckoff Avenue route and running the cars through a cut built through a right of way of the L. I. R. R. Co., between Wyckoff and Irving Avenues.

The Allied Civic Associations of Greater Ridgewood and Eastern District is comprised of twenty-four boards of trade and civic associations.

Bernard A. Ruoff is chairman, Herman Gohlinghorst, secretary, and Henry Weber, treasurer.\*

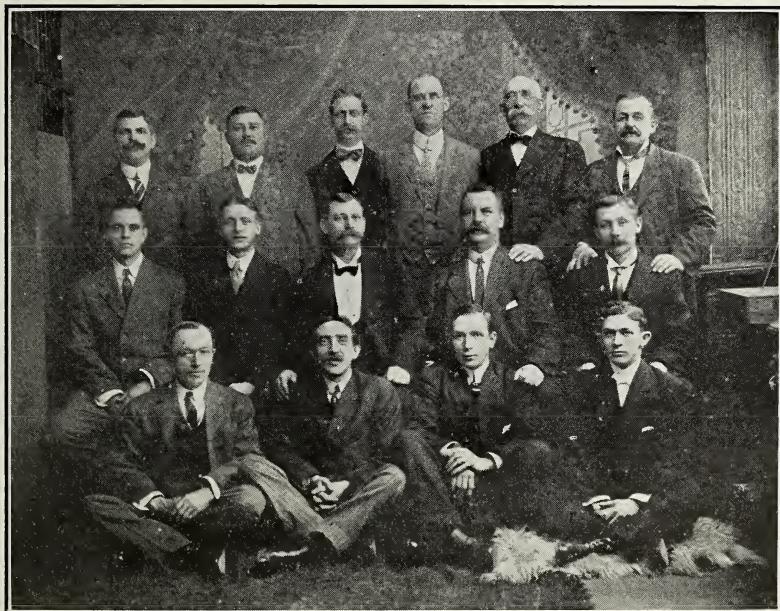
\*Individual Biographies of men prominent in the association will be found in another Chapter.

**EVERGREEN BOARD OF TRADE**

The history of the birth and development of the Evergreen Board of Trade presents a narrative of the vast amount of good work that can be accomplished by a body of public-spirited men, interested in the civic affairs of their home section. The hours, days and weeks of time, and the great amount of unremitting labor these men have willingly, yes cheerfully, given for the betterment of the Evergreen section, can never be fully appreciated. We can only make brief memorandum of the good work already done and give due credit to those men instrumental in accomplishing it. Their work will stand as a living monument, as indestructible as time itself, not only

in memory of the past and present members of the Evergreen Board of Trade, but also as a criterion to its future members.

For years the Evergreen section of Greater Ridgewood had struggled along in a pitiful condition. The streets were badly lighted and in some cases not open to traffic; street signs were badly lacking; the railroad service was inadequate; the system of sewerage antiquated, and the public school facilities meagre in the extreme. This was the condition of affairs when in November, 1905, the Evergreen Board of Trade was first organized by a handful of business men in this section.



THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE OF THE EVERGREEN BOARD OF TRADE

Top row, left to right—Henry Weber, Joseph Schildknecht, Alexander Rode, Franklin W. Vail  
John Brunjes, Leonard Gesell. Middle row, left to right—John C. Seebach, Fred Locke,  
H. Goemans, Joseph Geiger, Paul Braun. Bottom row, left to right—Charles  
Hess, J. P. Melville, James F. Kenny, Richard T. Ballou.

The first meeting was held in Hauslein's Hall, 63 Washington avenue.

Joseph DeBragga was elected temporary chairman, and with that spirit that defies obstacles, they started the work that has since claimed the admiration of other similar civic bodies.

The first notable step of the Evergreen Board of Trade was the building of the modern schoolhouse on Bergen Avenue, to replace the old frame structure.

Then, in swift succession, came the installation of gas lamps on the side streets; a more up-to-date system of sewerage, and more adequate police protection.

Today, with President Vail at the head of the organization, the Board is making wonderful progress. Among the more recent improvements obtained are the new electric lights on Cypress Avenue, through the efforts of Joseph DeBragga; the opening of Centre, George, Stephen and Norman Streets, from Wyckoff to Myrtle Avenues, for traffic, and the installation of new and numerous fire alarm boxes.

Another matter of importance that this progressive board is now at work on is the Stony Road question. In co-operation with the Cypress Hills Board of Trade, the Evergreen Board of Trade is now trying to open Stony Road for traffic, thus making a short cut through to Jamaica.

The Board also took a prominent part in the fight against the attempted Myrtle Avenue widening.

The chairmen of the Evergreen Board of Trade and their terms of office follow :

Joseph DeBragga, temporary chairman; Ed. T. Kessel, elected first president in 1905, and re-elected in 1906 for second term; T. Mulholland, elected in 1907, one term; John J. Hunter, elected in 1908 and re-elected for second term in 1909; H. Goemans, elected in 1910 and re-elected for second term in 1911. The present incumbent is Frank Vail.\*

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\*Individual Biographies of men prominent in the association will be found in another Chapter.

### GLENDALE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

In the past various attempts had been made to organize a taxpayers' association in the Glendale section of Greater Ridgewood; but until the organization of the Glendale Taxpayers' Association in 1911, no representative organization was in the field to take up and champion the needs of this much neglected section.

On March 9th, 1911, some of the prominent taxpayers came together and organized, the following officers being chosen: Emil Eckel, chairman, C. G. Ruff, vice-chairman; W. H. Wolfe, secretary; P. Talmon, treasurer; Chas. Froessel, financial secretary. These officers have served since the very be-

ginning and so faithfully have they carried out the important work necessary to be done that the members have re-elected them to the offices they hold.

Through the efforts of the Glendale Taxpayers Association is due the improving of Cooper Avenue, where a dirt road had been changed into an asphalt pavement; the installation of the Central Avenue Sewer, plans for which are now under way; the prospective firehouse on Witte Street, Glendale; the improvement of Public School No. 67; better transit facilities, lights, opening of important streets to public use, agi-

tation for improvements in Forest Park; agitation against lots where stagnant pools were allowed to exist and a great many other praiseworthy things that have been brought to the attention of the association by individual citizens.

The association, although probably the youngest in the Greater Ridgewood section, has an enrolled membership of one hundred and forty-five members,

and is one of the most vigilant and active bodies among us, and there is no limit to its future usefulness in a section such as Glendale, that is new and in need of the kind of citizenship that the Glendale Taxpayers' Association represents.\*

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\*Individual Biographies of men prominent in the association will be found in another Chapter.

### CITIZENS' IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Citizens' Improvement Association, originally known as the Evergreen Taxpayers' Association, was organized by Mr. F. C. White in October, 1908, when Cypress Avenue was known as the "flooded section." The association was

started for the purpose of agitating improvements that would relieve the section of this flooded condition. The efforts of its members were successful, and the borough officials were compelled to install two lateral sewers, namely,



FLOODED CONDITION OF CYPRESS AVENUE BEFORE LATERAL SEWERS  
WERE LAID

After a rainstorm in those days the car-service along Cypress Avenue was stopped  
as a matter of course

through George and Stephen Streets, cutting through the Colosseum and Picnic Park and connecting with the Covert Avenue sewer.

"It was this fight on the part of our association," says Mr. White, "which did away with the floods on Cypress Avenue, and the entire task was accomplished without the aid of any other association. We were termed at that time 'the minute men of the Evergreen section' by the officials who begrudgingly recognized our vigilance in this matter."

This work accomplished, the association disbanded for a time; but when new civic matters came up that again needed attention, the association was again re-organized, this time under the name of the Citizens' Improvement Association, with Mr. White as chairman.

"We were instrumental in having the streets opened through the picnic parks," asserts Mr. White, "as well as

in having lights and letter boxes installed where needed."

The association took an active part against the attempted widening of Myrtle Avenue and has gone on record for an 80c gas bill for Queens, and as being in favor of an elevated railroad through Wyckoff Avenue, provided a subway cannot be obtained.

The present officers are: Frank C. White, president; C. H. Zenner, first vice-president; H. Foster, second vice-president; Henry Miller, third vice-president; George Meboldt, recording secretary; James Dunn, financial secretary; George Miller, treasurer; Gustave E. Haber, keeper of city records; H. Gramlich, sergeant-at-arms; George Bankert, assistant door sentinel, and W. Hummel, door sentinel.\*

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\*Individual Biographies of men prominent in the association will be found in another Chapter.

### RIDGEWOOD BOARD OF TRADE

The history of the birth and growth of the Ridgewood Board of Trade presents a history of what can be accomplished by a body of men filled with civic pride and righteousness. Only those who have gone through the work of a civic organization can appreciate the many hours of thought, anxiety and hard work that can never be written in any story of the civic associations. We can only take note of the work that has been accomplished and give brief credit to those who helped in accomplishing it.

The Ridgewood Board of Trade was organized on the evening of July 15th, 1902, at Schwaben Hall, through the instrumentality of Geo. C. Miller, who is recognized as the father of the idea of civic boards in the upper Brooklyn sec-

tion. Mr. Geo. C. Miller was the father of the Broadway Board of Trade, as well as the Ridgewood Board of Trade. His selection as temporary chairman of the new association was unanimous. George Jaegle was chosen temporary secretary. One hundred and fifty business people attended this meeting. Other preliminary meetings followed, and on August 12th, 1902, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: George C. Miller, chairman; G. J. Schroeder, first vice-chairman; Ferdinand Fraas, second vice-chairman; J. F. Jund, corresponding secretary; J. H. Schmidt, recording secretary, and E. Stulz, treasurer.\*

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\*Individual Biographies of men prominent in the Association will be found in another Chapter.

Thus was the first Board of Trade in the Greater Ridgewood section brought to life and its members immediately set to work to obtain in an unselfish spirit, improvements for a section that had never had a moment's consideration at the hands of the Municipal authorities; a section in which portions knew not what it was to have street lamps or sidewalks. "We were dwelling in as crude and neglected a state as if the great City of New York was a thing unknown. Thirty miles of streets confronted the board, three miles of which were asphalted and the other twenty-seven were cobble-stones and dirt." The chairman, Mr. Miller, solicited the aid of the late J. Edward Swanstrom, who was then Borough President, and with his assistance, clean and well-ordered streets gradually took the place of the old thoroughfares. Another big question was the proper sewerage of the Ridgewood district. After prolonged efforts the great trunk sewer, which begins at Forest Park and extends through Myrtle Avenue to St. Nicholas Avenue, through St. Nicholas Avenue to Scott Avenue, and thence to Newtown Creek, was built. The question of adequate transit facilities by means of subway routes and fire houses, the widen-

of Gates Avenue, the disposition of the old Union Cemetery, at Palmetto and Madison Streets, since transformed into a site whereon a high school has been built, the establishment of transfer points, the installation of lighting facilities, agitation for pure water, the establishment of the Ridgewood Day Nursery by assisting Mrs. A. B. Moriarity, the sponsor of the Ridgewood Day Nursery.

George M. Schinzel succeeded George Miller, after his expiration of two terms as chairman, and Mr. Schinzel was in turn succeeded by Mr. Baerenklau, who in turn was succeeded by Paul A. Ajas, a very energetic worker in connection with the Ridgewood Board of Trade.

A. Frank Wilson, H. Werner, A. G. Beyer, Dr. Ketterle and Richard Weber were among the early workers in the association.

Among the very recent activities shown by the Board was the agitation in co-operation with the Allied Civics, directed against the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Terminal at Wyckoff Avenue, and the promotion of better transit facilities by means of a subway, or, if this is impossible, by an elevated through Wyckoff Avenue to East New York, to relieve the great congestion of traffic that now exists.

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#### HARMON-HIMROD TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

The Harman - Himrod Taxpayers' Association was organized in the early part of 1911 for the purpose of opposing an unfair assessment that the city levied on the property owners in Harman and Himrod streets, incurred in opening and extending these streets into Metropolitan Avenue.

Immediately after the owners were organized, an attorney was consulted and was engaged to work on the matter

of having the assessments reduced and equalized, so that an equal share would fall on all of the property owners benefited by the improvement.

Considerable work on the part of the lawyer and members of the association has already been accomplished in agitating this question, and a bill was presented by Assemblyman Metz at the last session, but this was pigeonholed in committee. The association is again

going to take the matter up in September, when agitation will be started in an effort to get the new legislature to take up and pass a bill calling for a reduction in the assessment. Let us

hope they will be successful in their endeavors.\*

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\*Individual Biographies of men prominent in the association will be found in another Chapter.

### RIDGEWOOD HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association has the proud distinction of having been the first civic body to organize in the Queens section of Greater Ridgewood.

It was in the summer of 1902 that seven earnest taxpayers, suffering as pioneer taxpayers have always suffered, from lack of improvements, in accommodation, delays and imposition, got together and resolved to organize an association that would take up civic matters and advance them in a united way. These six men were: John Burmeister, Edward Lynch, Mr. Ulfert, Mr. Meyer, Nicholas Luther, Mr. Gambert and Henry Bauer.

Nicholas Luther was made the first president from 1902 to 1903. Mr. Gambert succeeded Mr. Luther from 1903 to 1904, and in turn was succeeded by Charles Hummel, who held the office until 1908, when he voluntarily relinquished the chairmanship. He was presented with a loving cup by the members in recognition of the faithful work that he accomplished during his long and honored term of office.

Herman Gohlinghorst succeeded Mr. Hummel and has successively held the office up to the present day.

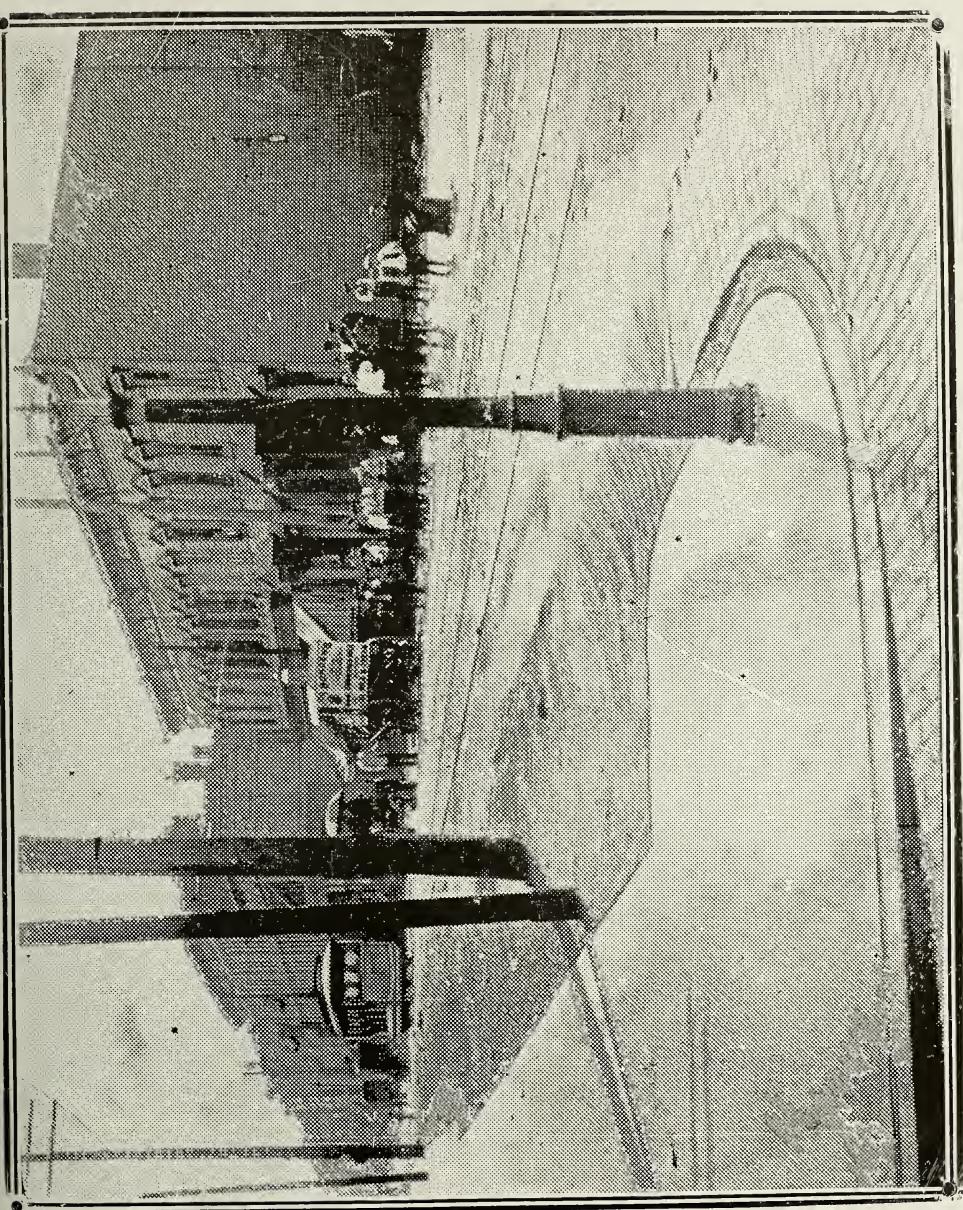
The first meeting place was in the little shanty occupied by the Meyerrose Democratic Club on Woodward Avenue, and the utmost difficulty was experienced in recruiting new members; but, as the organization began to demonstrate its usefulness; property owners began to

join, until today the association boasts of four hundred members.

It is hardly necessary to detail the great amount of work that the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association has accomplished in the Heights section since its inception. Streets had to be paved; lights and sewers installed; better transit urged, and abuses corrected.

One of the principal fights waged by the organization almost from its inception, was against the excessive water charges of the Cord Meyer Water Co., and to secure a more adequate supply of water. This agitation, which was continued almost incessantly from year to year, and later with the co-operation of the Ridgewood Times, finally resulted in a more plentiful supply of water, but no material reduction in rates. Mass meetings were instituted, other associations enlisted, legal counsel employed, notably in the battle in which Counselor John J. Rogers brought the company before Justice Jaycox in Brooklyn. In no instance, up to the present day, has it been possible to win any signal victory against this vested interest, and the only hope of the association, as of the property owners, throughout the section, is that the property of this monopoly will be condemned by the city and taken for the benefit of our people.

Street openings, better school facilities, better transit, better lighting facilities and relief from Tenement House restrictions have been some of the civic questions taken up and accomplished in



COVERT AVENUE BEFORE SEWERING AND PAVING WERE UNDERTAKEN

This street was in a deplorable dirt condition and looked upon by doctors as a disease-breeding spot. Vigorous agitation on the part of the members of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association finally secured this important improvement.

the ten years in which the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association has been in existence, and its service to the community in a general way will always continue to prove a most useful and helpful one. Seneca (Covert) Avenue is one of the streets where the association made a particular hard and earnest fight before its improvement was accomplished, and the prospective elevation of the B. R. T. tracks on Palmetto Street is directly attributed to the un-

tiring efforts of members to have the death tracks on this thoroughfare removed, and the agitation for the Eastern District-Ridgewood subway, in co-operation with the Allied Civic Associations, did much to bring about the improved transit conditions now under way.\*

\*Individual Biographies of men prominent in the association will be found in another Chapter.

#### RIDGEWOOD PARK BOARD OF TRADE

The Ridgewood Park Board of Trade was organized in November, 1908, by the George Street Property Owners for the purpose of agitating the paving of George Street, which was then in a deplorable condition. Henry Lentz and G. Gluckauf were the prime movers, and the first meeting was held in the rear of Mr. Lentz's drug store.

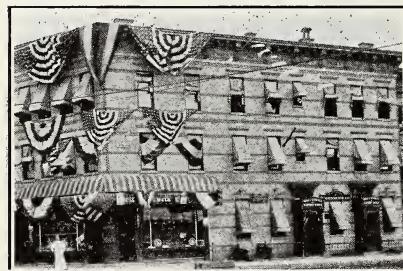
Henry Lentz was unanimously elected president; G. Gluckauf, secretary, and G. Flagg, treasurer. Shortly after, permanent headquarters were established at Mangold's New Arion Hall, Myrtle Avenue and Centre Street.

When the George Street improvement was completed, it was decided to per-

petuate the organization and give it a wide scope of usefulness and to this end property owners living on other blocks were invited to join. Thus the Ridgewood Park Board of Trade came into being.

In 1911, the Board moved its headquarters to Michael's Hall, Forest Avenue and Norman Street, where the meetings are now conducted.

Among the many other improvements which have been accomplished through the efforts of this Board are: the removal of objectionable telephone poles on George Street, Foxall Street and Edsall Avenue; installation of lamp posts on Forest Avenue and on Edsall Avenue, between Forest and Onderdonk Avenues; daily sprinkling and sweeping of Myrtle Avenue; installation of fire hydrants on Foxall Street; the blocking, with the assistance of other civic bodies and the Ridgewood Times, of the attempted widening of Myrtle Avenue; it affiliated with the Allied Civic Association in order to procure better transit and terminal facilities. It assisted in agitating the improvement on Elm Avenue, from Myrtle Avenue to Fresh Pond Road; Edsall Avenue, between Onderdonk and Anthon Ave-



Original Headquarters of Ridgewood Park Board of Trade, at Myrtle Avenue and Centre Street



MEMBERS OF THE RIDGEWOOD PARK BOARD OF TRADE  
Biographies of individual members will be found in another chapter of this volume.

nues; Van Cortlandt, Buchman and Anthon Avenues; secured sewer connections for Public School No. 88 and 285th Precinct Police Station; assisted in co-operation with the Evergreen Board of Trade in having George, Stephen, Summerfield, Centre and Norman Streets opened to public use; was instrumental, with assistance of other civic bodies and individuals, in inducing the Board of Education to build Public School No. 77 on Covert Avenue, and formally presented a silk American flag to the school children in October, 1911. The Board is generously engaged in maintaining, with other local boards, the Evergreen Traveling Station and, with

the Evergreen Board of Trade, is endeavoring to secure a Ridgewood representative on the Queensboro Public Library Board.

The present and past officers of the Board will be found mentioned in the chapter on individual biographies.

While the Ridgewood Park Board of Trade is a comparatively young organization, it can be said of it that, in the short time of its existence, exceptionally good work has been accomplished, and, judging by the active way in which the members are going about in agitating needed improvements, still further splendid results will be achieved.

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#### THE WYCKOFF HEIGHTS TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

The Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association was organized in 1908 in order to "demand and secure concessions for public improvements, especially for the localities adjacent to and within which its membership resides. To aid and assist the proper authorities in detecting, removing and remedying public nuisances, abuses, injuries to the health, morals and general safety and welfare of the community; to bring to the notice of the respective departments defects upon the public streets, sewers and buildings and the supply of water, gas and electricity; as to adequate police and health protection and failures of public service corporations to comply with the laws and ordinances, and to foster and encourage good morals, loyal and uniform obedience to all laws, especially among its membership and as far as its influence may be able to reach others."

Henry Werner was its first president and he was succeeded by Adam E. Fischer, who was president during the second year of the association's existence. Charles Mueller was elected

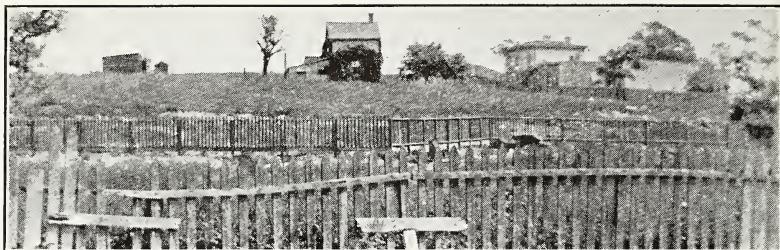
president in 1911, and re-elected in 1912.

Other prominent members of the association are: Christian Schoerry, first vice-president; Charles J. Schmidt, second vice-president; William H. Speare, secretary; Jacob Heller, financial secretary; Joseph Rind, treasurer; John Markert, sergeant-at-arms; Peter J. Cahill, Dr. Wm. B. Rosecrans, Charles F. Werner, George Lederer, George Kleinlein, A. B. Marks, J. Lapp and August G. Beyer, who is the association's attorney. Biographical sketches of these and additional members will be found under individual biographies.

The association comprises a very active and enthusiastic membership and is giving a good account of itself in studying the needs of its section of Greater Ridgewood and in championing the issues agreed upon.

It meets at J. Weiskopf's Aurora Hall, 98 Wyckoff Avenue, corner DeKalb, on the first Tuesday of each month, and the address of its secretary, W. H. Speare, is 372 Ralph Street.

**PART V**  
**INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS**



A QUAIN AND UNALTERED RIDGEWOOD SCENE

(Photo taken from Cooper Avenue, near Cypress, looking South)

Strolling westward along the winding course of Cooper Avenue, in the vicinity of the old schoolhouse, one may readily imagine himself back on the main street of the little settlement to the north of which has since grown up what we now call Ridgewood, as it was some years before the Civil War. It is a picturesque and interesting spot, with which the modern inhabitants of Greater Ridgewood are entirely unacquainted.

The square house to the right falls on Cypress Avenue. It is the old Cooper homestead. Between 1850 and 1861, it became widely famous as Farrell's Road House and was the scene of much festivity during the racing seasons at the Union Course Track, as it enjoyed the patronage of the sporting fraternity of those days, from New York and elsewhere, who traveled to and from this famous old race track by way of Cypress Hills Plank Road.

When the war began, the supply of Kentucky horses ceased and the public interest in horse racing was interrupted. Farrell died the same year and the hotel was closed.

Upon the walls of the old house still hang, however, oil paintings of famous horses of long ago—reminders of the fact that Queens County was the cradle of American horse-racing and of the days when Governors and Legislators of New York State not only sanctioned, but in their official capacity established horse racing in this State—in 1669, Governor Lovelace appointed that horse racing should take place in the month of May each year at Hyde Park, L. I., while in 1821 the State Legislature ordered the establishment of the Union Course track in its stead.

## CHAPTER VIII

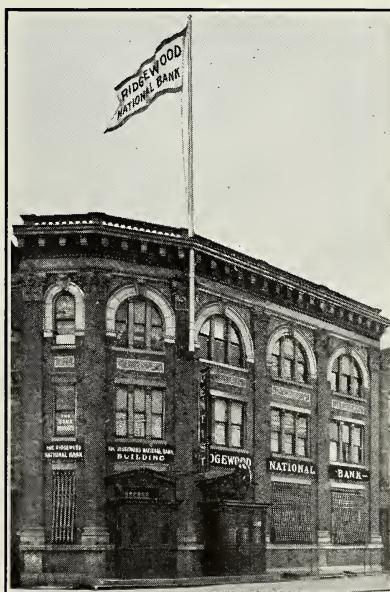
### THE RIDGEWOOD NATIONAL BANK

The Ridgewood National Bank has the distinction of being the first National Bank to be established in this section of Queensboro. It is distinctly a "home institution" and a great amount of local pride and sentiment centers around it, owing to the peculiar local circumstances that ushered it into being. Probably no other local bank has been organized on such a completely democratic basis or in so open and fair a manner as this bank has been.

It was near the close of 1908, just after the disgraceful and scandalous closing of the doors of several State Banks and Trust Companies, that an attorney representing certain well-known downtown financial interests called at the Ridgewood Times office, which was then at St. Nicholas and Myrtle Avenues, and solicited the writer to lend the influence of the Times to the furtherance of a new bank; a very liberal consideration being vouchsafed for whatever services would be rendered these interests through the paper. Instead of considering this proposition, the writer that evening called upon Mr. Louis Berger, the present President of the Ridgewood National Bank, and who at that time was already considered the most influential financial man in the section, informed him of the contemplated invasion of our section by these outside banking interests, and asked if an appeal to the local pride of our business men would not materialize in the establishment of a distinctly local institution, something along the co-operative lines under which the Ridgewood Times was organized and carried on; a community institution that would be controlled absolutely by the business men themselves, free from outside influences

and that would be a permanent monument of credit and pride to those who assisted in founding it. Mr. Berger coincided with this view and volunteered to lend his personal influence and time and services to the project. The following Saturday an extended article appeared in the Ridgewood Times, calling the attention of the business men to the efforts that were being made by outside interests to get a foothold in Ridgewood, and appealing to the local business men to get together and exert themselves for the purpose of thwarting these efforts and themselves establishing an institution that would be truly representative of the business interests of the section. The article appealed for:

"A sound business bank, to be situated preferably in the Queens section of Ridgewood



RIDGEWOOD NATIONAL BANK

and to be controlled absolutely by local business interests, thereby insuring absolute security to all depositors and stockholders against practices such as have repeatedly been made evident in the history of Ridgewood's banking institutions.

"From a broad civic point of view," the article continued, "a local National Bank founded on a sound and trustworthy basis, will lend credit to the community; it will put the section on a higher footing; it will increase land values in the vicinity, add to population, increase business and, above all, promote home rule.

"Individually it will profit every business man who subscribes toward the establishment of a bank of this kind. It will earn him a dividend on the money he has invested in stock, which heretofore he has practically given over to strangers."

A preliminary meeting was called in the Ridgewood Times office, at Myrtle and St. Nicholas Avenues, and an organization committee of prominent business men was appointed, consisting of August Bauer, Louis Berger, Alfred Denton, George Emener, John Geyer, Franz Hempelmann, Sebastian Hofman, Peter Kerner, Bernard Koenen, Gustave X. Matthews, Dr. Wm. F. Matthews, John Meyer, Joseph Meyerrose, Hy. Petry, Dr. Emil G. Raeder, George Schubel, Kilian Schurger, Paul Stier and Philip Wagner.

The local business men of our section gave the movement their heartiest endorsement. Public meetings, led by Mr. Louis Berger, who had entered the movement heart and soul, were arranged from week to week in halls in various parts of the section, the first of which was held at Kreuscher's Hall, Myrtle and Cypress Avenues; then Ernest Lutz's Hall, St. Nicholas Avenue and Ralph Street; A. Sprunck's Hall, Onderdonk Avenue corner Harman Street; Wm. Meyer's Tyrolean Hall, Cypress Avenue and Norman Street; Andrew Goetz's Hall, Forest Avenue corner Palmetto Street; Fred Heerlein's Hall, Cypress Avenue corner Halsey Street; Conrad Reinheimer's Hall, Myrtle Avenue corner Harman Street, Evergreen; Geo. Rehkamp's Hall, Covert Avenue corner Gates Avenue.

The Organization Board felt war-

ranted, on the success of these public meetings, to apply to the national authorities for their approval in connection with the establishment of a National Bank in Ridgewood, and with the assistance of Counsellor Robert W. Wickert, whose interest was of great help from the very start, application was made. After due investigation the representative of the National Controller in Washington filed a favorable report and the application was approved, authorizing a capitalization of \$100,000 and a surplus of \$25,000; \$10 of each share subscribed for by the stockholders to be paid into the People's National Bank, corner Broadway and Quincy Street, before Thursday, April 8th, 1909. The entire popular subscription of stock was raised among one hundred and forty-three of our local business men with little trouble, thereby distributing the stock into the hands of the largest possible number of people and eliminating the possibility of one-man control.

A final meeting of shareholders was called at Kreuscher's Hall, Myrtle and Cypress Avenues, on Thursday evening, April 8th, 1909, for the purpose of choosing the site of the proposed bank and electing officers and directors. At this meeting, the liveliest interest was shown as to the selection of the site for the new bank, some proposing the corner where Meyer's Hotel now stands, at Covert and Myrtle Avenues, and others the site at Myrtle and Cypress Avenues, where the bank is now located. The latter site was chosen. Meanwhile, however, until the plans for the building were prepared and the building itself erected, the bank was established in temporary quarters in a store at Myrtle and St. Nicholas Avenues, opposite the Times office, on property owned by Charles Baum, and opened for business on May 29th, 1909.

The Board of Directors for the first



## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE RIDGEWOOD NATIONAL BANK

1—Philip F. Hirsch. 2—August Bauer. 3—Ferdinand Fraas. 4—Ernst Lutz. 5—Elliot R. Couden  
6—Frederick Sprower. 7—August W. Neumann. 8—George Emener. 9—Dr. Emil  
G. Raeder. 10—Philip J. Wagner. 11—Louis Berger

(Henry Schmidt, William H. Frank, Philip Geyer and Walter F. Ring are not in this group.

Pictures will be found in connection with their individual biographies  
in another part of this book)

year, comprised of fourteen of our local business men of sterling character, whose biographical sketches will be found throughout this volume, was also elected at this meeting, as follows: Louis Berger, August Bauer, Elliot R. Couden, Hon. George Emener, William H. Frank, Ferdinand Fraas, John Geyer, Philip F. Hirsch, Ernst Lutz, August W. Neumann, Dr. Emil G. Raeder, D.D.S.; Walter F. Ring, Frederick Sprower, Henry Schmidt and Philip J. Wagner. The Board went into session and elected Louis Berger, who had been the organizing spirit and the most untiring of the

workers during the organization days, as its president; August W. Newmann, first vice-president; Emil G. Raeder, second vice-president; Elliott R. Couden, cashier.

Thus did the Ridgewood National Bank come into being, after a period of agitation and organization extending from the first meeting in December, 1908, to the last meeting at Kreuscher's in April, 1909. The building in which the bank is now located, at Cypress and Myrtle Avenues, next door to the Times Building, was completed in January, 1910, and cost \$36,000. The

building stands free and clear of mortgage or debt of any kind.

The establishment of this local bank as a National instead of a State institution was decided upon in the beginning, because it meant that the bank would be under the direct supervision of the United States Government; it would be governed by stricter laws and restrictions than a State bank, and could not have branches, making it permanently and distinctly a local institution; the money deposited in the bank, as a local bank, would be absolutely in the control of the local people, and not in the hands of outside financial interests and strangers, and lastly, the money would be invested by the people themselves, through their duly elected representatives. All these advantages have been realized and the brightest prophesies regarding the success of this local institution, in which we all take such pride, have been realized. The bank now has about 2700 depositors; total resources of \$1,000,000, and is now practically the largest individual bank in Queensboro. This high record has been accomplished in the three short years of its existence. Through the unselfishness and conscientious work of the directors, none of whom, up to the present time, including the president, have asked for or accepted compensation for their services, the bank has been able to pay a dividend every year since its inception.

Unless the bank should ever fall into other hands than those of the fourteen local business men of sterling character and high business reputation, who stand at the head of affairs now, the Ridgewood National Bank will continue to enjoy the high confidence that has been given it by the people of the section from the start, and its success will continue to increase in proportion to Greater Ridgewood's growth.

We cannot help but make mention

here, in connection with the historical sketch of the bank, of some of the employees who have been identified with this institution and assisted in its growth.

#### Louis Berger

Probably no other architect in the city has drawn as many plans for builders as did Mr. Berger in the time that he was in business. The record of the office shows the extraordinary number of more than five thousand plans for buildings in Greater Ridgewood, and this large business which Mr Berger established was due to the fact that he was ever ready to render whatever helpful additional service that his intimate knowledge of the building laws and his training enabled him to give.

Mr. Berger was born in Enkenbach, Rheinpfalz, Germany in 1875, and came to America in 1880. He took up an architectural course at Pratt Institute and served his apprenticeship with Greer and Hastings. In 1892, he came with his family to Ridgewood, and in 1895 he established the business that finally grew to such immense proportions.

In the early days, Mr. Berger was a faithful civic worker; working for improvements that were badly needed. He was secretary of the Ridgewood Heights Board of Trade and led in every movement for better conditions.

In 1902, he married Blanca Kreuscher. There are no children.

When the Ridgewood National Bank was established, Mr. Berger was made its first president, serving without pay and giving a degree of unselfish devotion to its upbuilding that could only be repaid on the part of the directors by honoring him again and again with the office which he still holds. As already stated, Mr. Berger took the leading part in the organization of the bank, and all

credit is due him for having been responsible for the materialization of this undertaking.

In 1910, Mr. Berger sold out his architect's business to Gastmeyer and entered the building business, forming a corporation with Messrs. Bauer and Stier as members and known as Bauer and Stier, Inc.

Mr. Berger is fond of reading and music and spends what little spare time he has in these two favorite recreations.

#### **Elliott R. Couden**

Mr. Elliott R. Couden, cashier of the Ridgewood National Bank, was born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1876, and has been a resident of Queens County for the last nine years. Mr. Couden's uncle, Henry N. Couden, is the blind chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Couden has been connected with five National Banks in Greater New York during the past twenty years, and was formerly with the Corona and Jamaica National Banks.

In 1900, Mr. Couden married Agnes H. Mercereau, and by her has three children; Helen A., Ethel M., and Elliott Noble.

#### **John Oltmann**

Mr. John Oltmann is another employee associated with the bank from the beginning and who rendered material help at the time of its organization. Mr. Oltmann, previous to his connection with the Ridgewood National Bank, was identified with the main office of the State Bank of New York City, 376 Grand Street. He became associated with the Ridgewood National Bank when it opened, serving as Receiving and Paying Teller, and later as Note Teller, which position he now holds.

Mr. Oltmann is a member of Oltman's Lodge, No. 446, F. & A. M.; charter member of the Ridgewood Democratic

Club, and a member of other organizations. In 1911, he married Mary L. Whitford, of Brooklyn.

#### **Philip Esper**

Mr. Philip Esper, Teller, like Mr. Oltmann and Mr. Couden, became associated with the bank from the beginning, and before this served as traveling salesman for Boyd's City Dispatch. He was born in New York City, December 14th, 1889, and came to Ridgewood ten years ago. Mr. Esper is a brother-in-law of Dr. Emil G. Raeder.

The other employees are: Wm J. Carroll, Max Dietrich, Henry Bohlen.

#### **Frederick Sprower & Co.**

The firm of Frederick Sprower & Co., of Covert Avenue and Grove Street, was established in November, 1878, in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. The plant was removed to Greater Ridgewood in 1892, on the same site that it occupies at the present time.

In 1912, Mr. Frederick Sprower attempted a novel departure by incorporating the company under the name of the Frederick Sprower Mfg. Co. and making all of his employees shareholders in the concern. The attempt, like many other attempts that have behind them the good intentions of the employer toward the welfare of his employees, proved a failure, through lack of co-operation on the part of those that Mr. Sprower intended to help. As a result, Mr. Sprower bought in all the outstanding stock and the corporation was dissolved.

Mr. Sprower is a member of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, Baltic Lodge, F. and A. M. 33rd Degree Mason; P. M. of Putnam Lodge, member of Empire Chapter, York Commandery, Cerneau Consistory, Scottish Rites, 33rd Degree and last

Degree. He is a director of the Ridgewood National Bank and of the Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Co.

In 1872, Mr. Sprower married Mary A. Wells, and by her had two sons, George W. and Frank, both of whom are dead. He also has a daughter, Netty B., who is married to Wm. J. Thomson, of Brooklyn.

#### Braun's Brush Factory

E. Braun's Brush Factory, 1620 Decatur Street, near Wyckoff Avenue, was established in 1875 by Mr. Emanuel Braun, who is still sole proprietor of this place. The factory was formerly at Forrest Street near Bushwick Avenue and was removed to its present location in 1903.

The concern employs fifteen helpers and the business is mostly of a mail order character. The brushes manufactured are principally of a kind used in dairies, factories, etc.

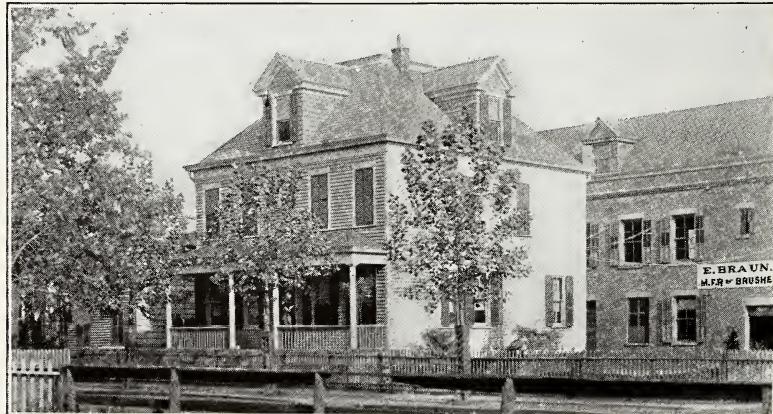
Mr. Braun was born in Germany in 1849 and came to America in 1871. In 1873 he married Barbara Greiner, and by her has eight children, all living; William, Clara, Catherine, Paul, Joseph, Frank, Elizabeth and Albert.

Paul, William and Albert are with their father in the business.

Mr. Braun is a member of the Odd Fellows and Masonic Lodges, Knights and Ladies of Honor, Schwaebischer Saengerbund, Werra Bowling Club and Easy Fishing Club.

#### Nolte's Moulding Mills

Nolte's Moulding Mills, Myrtle and Cypress Avenues, was founded in 1887 by Wm. H. Nolte, who was born in New York City August 21st, 1849, and died in 1894. Mr. Nolte started in the lumber business as a bookkeeper for Bossert & Co., and after a thorough apprenticeship, he started in business on his own account, entering into partnership with



E. BRAUN'S BRUSH FACTORY  
Decatur Street, near Wyckoff Avenue



OLD RIDGEWOOD HAY MARKET

Now altered and occupied by Nolte Bros., Lumber Dealers

Frank Koch in 1887, and later buying the latter out. The business was started in a small building on McKibben St., but gradually grew to such proportions that additional room was required and additions made until the factory occupied a piece of property 125 feet front and 75 feet deep. Since Mr. Nolte's death, the business has been carried on by his two sons, Edward A. and William C., who now have their selling yard and office at Myrtle and Cypress Avenues, in the building which was formerly occupied by Richard Borsman.

#### Sackman Bros. Co.

The Sackman Brothers Co., operating in the Wagner Building, was established in January, 1906, by Charles Sackman.

The concern manufactures children's novelties, which are designed directly on the premises.

Since 1910, when its factory was moved from Manhattan to Greater Ridgewood section, the concern has been doubling its business yearly and this is ascribed to its fixed policy of manufacturing and selling a popular grade of goods. From sixty to seventy-five

employees, mostly girls are employed and the experience of this firm in connection with employees has been that the character of the help secured locally is superior to that of any other section of the city.

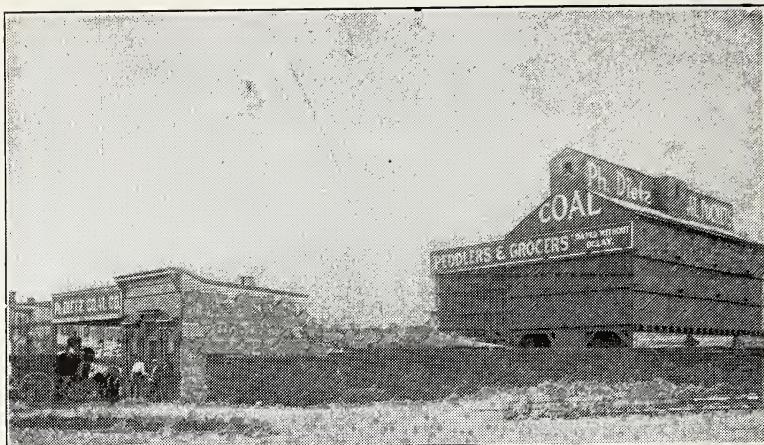
The concern does an international and interstate business, shipping goods as far as Australia, South Africa, Europe and other parts of the world, as well as throughout the United States.

The company is at present controlled by Charles Sackman, Martin Sackman and Gertrude P. Sackman, and maintains a Manhattan office at 530 Broadway, N. Y.

#### Philip Dietz Coal Co.

The story connected with the Philip Dietz Coal Co. is the story of another successful man who changed one line of work for another and made a greater success for himself in doing so.

Philip Dietz started a dairy in 1888 on Harman avenue near Myrtle. His business became a lucrative one, Mr. Dietz acquiring as high as thirty-five cows and supplying an extensive trade in Brooklyn. But, with an almost in-



PHILIP DIETZ COAL YARD  
Fresh Pond Road, Myrtle Avenue and L. I. R. R. Crossing\*

tuitive feeling that he could do even better in a new line of endeavor, he started a modest coal and wood business in 1905, with his two sons to assist him.

Mr. Dietz began his venture with three carloads of coal, every pound of which was handled with shovel, and he was much concerned as to whether he had bitten off more than he could chew. However, this first consignment went quick, as did the coal that followed, and it was not long before a very large trade was developed owing to the fact that customers were always treated right.

Improvements, such as coal pockets, coal conveyors and cross-cut saws for cutting wood, were installed in 1908 and 1910, and today the Philip Dietz Coal Co. occupies a big plot of ground taking in about 20 lots on Fresh Pond Road, Van Cortlandt Avenue and Kossuth Place.

In 1911, an ice business was established in connection with the coal and wood business, and this has also proven a success.

Mr. Philip Dietz was born in Nieder-Moerlen, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, in 1862, and came to America in 1872

with his parents and coming directly to Williamsburg to a relative, John Schlitz, Sr.

In 1886, he married Catherine Schmidt, and by her has six children: Emil, married to Elizabeth Walbroehl, May (who married Dr. Hy. Edw. Pflug), Louis, August, Gertrude and Harry.

He is a member of the St. Pancras R. C. Church, C. B. L. Council, Fresh Pond Road Taxpayers' Protective Association, Unity Democratic Club and other organizations and societies.

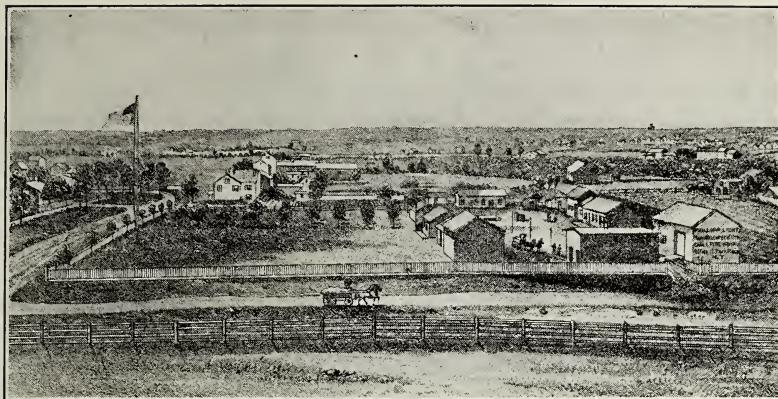
#### P. L. Greiner & Son

An unpretentious glass sign on the outside of 331 Fresh Pond Road, next door to the Wagner Homestead, is the only indication of an industry that has the unique distinction of being the only one in New York City.

The firm of P. L. Greiner and Son, glass benders, was established thirty-eight years ago at Sumner Avenue and Ellery Street, Brooklyn. In 1906, the firm was moved to the present address

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\*Illustrations of this yard since it has been improved and made larger will appear in Volume II.



**OLD PRINT OF PHILIP LICHT'S RESIDENCE AND EAGLE FIRE WORKS  
On Forest Avenue in vicinity of Butler Street**

with the factory facing on Grant Street, where the business is carried on by P. L. Greiner and his son Frederick.

Mr. P. L. Greiner, the founder, was born in Glassheut, Bayern, in 1838, and came to Brooklyn in 1856.

The specialties manufactured by this firm are the curved glass used for china closets, glass bottles, glass labels and curved glass fronts. A large business is done, as orders are received from all over the city, and there are few glass bending businesses of this kind in America.

#### **Wagner Comb Mfg. Co.**

One of the older Brooklyn concerns that have moved into the Greater Ridgewood section and which has the distinction of being one of the largest of its kind in the United States, is the Wagner Comb Manufacturing Co. It holds the distinction, too, of having erected the first manufacturing building in the upper section of Greater Ridgewood.

The concern was started by Philip Wagner in 1867 and is a close corporation, the shares being all held in the family. The company manufactures an extensive line of combs, novelties,

etc., and was one of the first of its kind in Brooklyn. Between seventy and eighty employees, of both sexes, are employed.

#### **Fireworks Plants In Early Ridgewood**

Between the years 1859 and 1865, two fireworks plants were established within the present vicinity of Greater Ridgewood.

Philip Licht founded the earlier one—the Eagle Fireworks Company, of which he was the sole proprietor.

The accompanying reproduction of an old print shows the plant, consisting then of about ten or twelve buildings, and the residence of Mr. Licht (the little white home with the gabled roof, facing on Forest Avenue, on the corner about half a block beyond the flag staff. This house still stands on the same spot.)

Mr. Licht later built a large residence on the spot where the flag staff stood when this picture was made. Some time after his death, this house was occupied by Ottolie Waissenhaus and is now the home of the Third Assembly District Regular Democratic Association.

During the War, the Eagle Works

supplied the Government with large quantities of bomb fuse and signal rockets. Mr. Licht put the time fuses in the Monitor shells that blew up the Confederate gunboat, Merrimac.

Philip Licht was a German, who came here in 1832 at the age of 12. In 1842, he married Mary Kreider, by whom he had two children: Philip and Mary. In 1885, his wife having died some years before, he married Mary Wehle. Mr. Licht died in 1889.

#### **Theodore J. Scharfenberg**

Theodore J. Scharfenberg, who established his fireworks plant in 1865 on Cooper Avenue near Knickerbocker, is remembered more now as an earnest churchman, whose tireless zeal had much to do with the founding of St. Thomas' Church, now at Cooper and Bushwick Avenues.

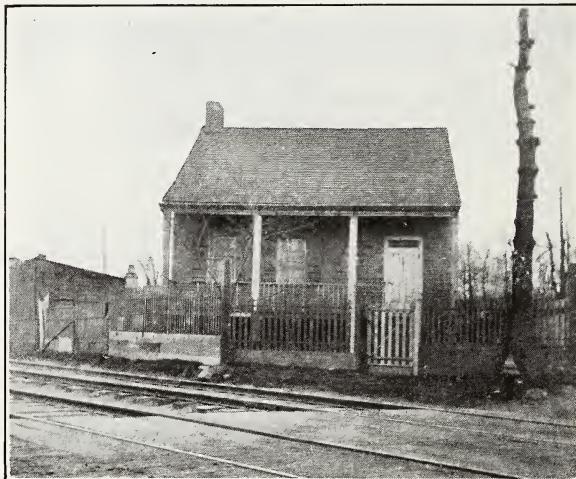
Mr. Scharfenberg was born in Germany, the son of a noted jurist and chemist. He came here at the age of



MR. THEODORE J. SCHARFENBERG

eighteen and secured employment as a machinist—he having learned that trade in Germany.

Studying some of his father's books on chemistry, he began the manufacture of fireworks on Cooper Avenue, adjoining the present site of the family residence and was very successful. When the



**THE PINK HOUSE**  
Where the First Services Were Held

Consolidated Fireworks Company was organized, Mr. Scharfenberg entered the combine and became its treasurer.

The first meeting called to consider the standing of an Episcopal Mission in the neighborhood was held at the home of Mr. Scharfenberg in 1871, and he and two or three other men and their families were the sole support of the undertaking for a long time; a little house that stood close to the railroad track at Wyckoff and Cooper Avenues, called the pink house, was used for the first winter and in 1872, the original church building at Cooper and Bushwick Avenues was built.

Mr. Scharfenberg died in 1904, survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters: John Frederick, of 39 Stanley Avenue, Union Course; Ambrose Augustus, of Lynbrook; Fannie E. (Mrs. F. F. Mott), of Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, and Emma (Mrs. Jay Leiser), who lives in the old homestead.

#### **Putnam Coal and Ice Company**

The Putnam Coal and Ice Company, Myrtle and Gates Avenues, was founded in 1892 by H. Senger and A. Ande. The present proprietors are H. Senger, Andrew Ande and Charles Senger, and these three men at the helm of the business have made it one of the biggest in Brooklyn.

Eighty-five men are employed and the annual volume of business reaches the enormous output of 80,000 tons of coal and 20,000 tons of ice. The pocket capacity of the yard is 6,000 tons and 8,000 tons are kept on hand throughout the yard. The capitalization is estimated to be \$20,000.

It is needless to say that the Putnam Coal and Ice Company employs the latest improved system in connection with loading and unloading coal. The coal is hoisted by means of electric power on an average of 100 tons an hour

and is double-screened at the rate of a ton a minute.

In addition to the yards at Myrtle and Gates Avenues, the concern has another yard at Buffalo Avenue and Herkimer Street, where an extensive business is done in wholesale and retail.

#### **Cooper & Weismantel, Inc.**

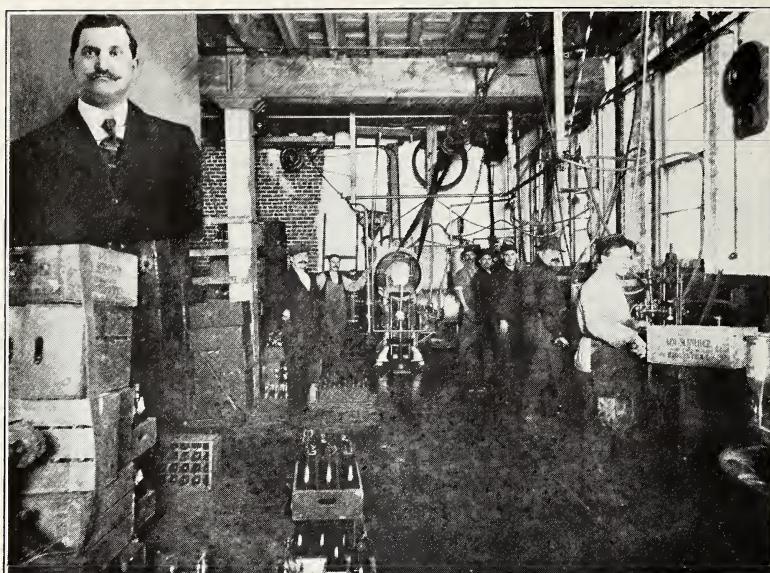
Cooper & Weismantel, Inc., began the manufacture of reed baby carriages and go-carts at 76 Hamburg Avenue in 1900. In 1902, they built the present factory at 362-364 Jefferson Street and have made and sold as many as 12,000 reed carriages and go-carts in a single year, besides the jobbing of as many as 15,000 collapsible go-carts per year, nearly all of which goods have been disposed of in the Metropolitan district.

The vogue of reed baby carriages is not continuous, however, other varieties having their turn and at present there are only about forty employees at work in the factory. In all probability, reed carriages will be fashionable again next year and the concern will, no doubt, exceed its last year's business.

All the stock of the company is owned by three men, all of whom are active in the business. They are: George Cooper, of 346 Evergreen Avenue, who is president; John Weismantel, of 1469 Greene Avenue, treasurer, and Henry Biggs, of Richmond Hill, secretary.

#### **George Cooper**

Mr. George Cooper, who is President of Cooper & Weismantel, Inc., and Secretary of the Irving Athletic Club, was born in the Bushwick section January 12th, 1869, and has lived here all his life. He is married and has three children: George, Catherine and Marion, the oldest of whom is ten years of age.



SCHNEIDER'S MINERAL WATER PLANT ON STOCKHOLM STREET

### **George Schneider**

George Schneider, from a very small beginning thirteen years ago, has built up a mineral water business, which now boasts of a plant with a capacity of two thousand cases of birch beer, cider and mineral water per day.

This plant occupies a plot 50x150 at 181-183 Stockholm Street.

Mr. Schneider began in a small place at 328 Hamburg Avenue in 1899. Three years later he built and equipped the present plant at Stockholm Street and now employs from 16 to 20 men.

Three years ago, the business was incorporated under the name of George Schneider & Co., Inc., with George Schneider as President and Manager.

Mr. Schneider was born in Wittenburg, Germany, May 7th, 1876, where, as a boy, he received a common school education. In 1889, he came to this

country with his parents and brothers and sisters. He went to work in the mineral water factory of a relative in College Point and attended the evening school on Howard Street, Brooklyn. The following year the family moved to Hamburg Avenue and he has thus been a resident of Greater Ridgewood since he was fourteen years of age.

In 1894, in the month of November, Mr. Schneider married Bertha Duerr, who was born in Baden, Germany, but who also came here as a child. There are three daughters: Bertha, who has charge of the company's books; Louisa and Gertrude. The Schneider home adjoins the plant on Stockholm Street.

Mr. Schneider is a member of many lodges and civic associations.

William Schneider, a brother of George Schneider, lives at 345 Weirfield Street. Three sisters: Freda (Mrs. August Scheley), Amelia (Mrs. Philip

Schnell), Louisa (Mrs. Herman Schmidt) and their mother occupy apartments at 328 Hamburg Avenue. Another sister, Emma (Mrs. Henry Kessel), lives at 181 Schaffer Street.

#### Lehmann & Schaefer

The unpretentious front at 321 Palmetto Street would deceive one regarding the splendidly equipped machine shop inside, owned by Lehmann & Schaefer. This concern started in a very small way six years ago, repairing automobiles, making machinery models, special machinery and doing repairing of machinery in a general way, and are now doing a thriving business. More machinery is constantly being added and the great problem now is more room.

Mr. Julius C. Lehmann was born in New York City in 1875 and has been about twenty-two years in the Greater Ridgewood section. Previous to entering partnership, Mr. Lehmann was foreman for eight years for the National Meter Co. in the gas engine department,

and in addition to this, is a mechanical engineer and has several important inventions of his own. In 1904, he married Julia C. Knoblock, and by her has one child, Florence, six years of age. Mr. Lehmann is greatly interested in mechanics, literature, automobiling and boating.

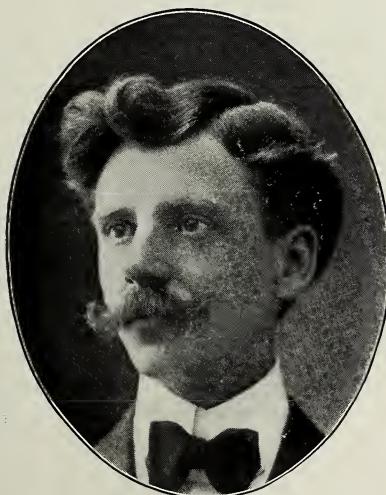
Mr. Emil Schaefer, junior member, was born in Bridgeport, Conn., in 1879, and has been in the Ridgewood section about thirty years. Previous to entering in partnership with Mr. Lehmann, he was employed with E. W. Bliss for over four years in the die-making department. He is unmarried. Mr. Schaefer is fond of mechanics, ancient history, boating and bowling. He is a member of the Improved Order of Heptasophs.

#### The Diana Candy Factory

Ballweg & Greenwald, manufacturers of the high grade chocolate-covered candies known as the Diana Chocolates, have just moved into their new three-story brick building, occupying a plot, 50x90, at 382-384 Jefferson Street. This building contains more than 15,000 square feet of floor space and affords room for the increased facilities made necessary by the rapidly increasing demand for the locally well-known Diana Chocolates.

At present there are about forty or fifty workers employed in this factory, but, with the growth of the local demand and the opening of a market for Diana Chocolates in Chicago, the factory is at the present moment unable to keep up with its orders, although its present output amounts to between 1,200 and 2,000 pounds of candy per day.

The business was founded in 1904 by John J. Ballweg at 121-123 Nostrand avenue. He began in a small way depending upon merit alone to win public favor. About five years ago,



MR. JULIUS C. LEHMANN

Edward Greenwald, an experienced candy salesman, entered the business as a partner, and the factory's inability to keep up with its orders made necessary the building of a larger plant. This development was met by the building of the present factory in Ridgewood.

### The Frank Brewery

The Frank Brewery, Incorporated, one of the oldest brewing concerns in the Greater Ridgewood section, was founded by Jacob Marquardt in the early fifties.

Those who remember Marquardt's Brewery, speak of it as a small one-story structure that hardly foretold the great big enterprise that was to blossom out of the small and unpretentious beginning.

Gustave Feigenspan, who succeeded Marquardt, in 1890, incorporated the business and became its president with Mr. Wm. H. Frank as treasurer and manager. It is unnecessary to say that, with the acquisition to the business of Mr. Frank, there came also the introduction of that energy, push and application that are characteristic of our American young men and that Mr. Frank possesses in a marked degree.

Under his management the business prospered and in 1892, the concern was re-incorporated under the name of the William H. Frank Brewing Company, with John M. Moser as president, Wm. H. Frank as treasurer and general manager and Philip Geier as secretary and superintendent.

In November, 1888, the Wm. H. Frank Brewing Company sold out to the Frank Brewery and incorporated under that name, retaining the same officers and management as before.

During all this time, the care and responsibility and burdens of this growing young enterpirse were being borne more and more by the man who was at

the same time the genius of its remarkable development and growth. From the time of Mr. Frank's entrance into the affairs of the concern, the business grew by leaps and bounds. In 1890, the annual output amounted to 37,000 barrels of beer. Under his management, the demand and production rapidly increased, until today an annual output has been reached of 156,000 barrels of lager beer, ale and porter, despite the unfavorable business conditions of the last few years. From the small building shown in the illustration, the plant was increased from time to time until today the brewery proper occupies a plot of ground 250 feet by 285 feet on Cypress Avenue, Willow Street and Hancock Street and a cooperage shop and bottling department covering a similar stretch of property on Cypress Avenue, between Weirfield and Centre Streets.

In 1906, a separate branch and ice house was established at Coney Island, for the purpose of accommodating the increasing local trade of that section of the city. Thus, from the small one-story structure of the early days has grown an enterprise of the proportions just mentioned.

None of the early group of men who were identified with the concern are living, except Mr. Wm. H. Frank. Mr. Philip Geyer, the secretary and superintendent of the concern, died in 1906, his son succeeding him in the same capacity and office. In July, 1911, Mr. Moser died and Mr. Frank succeeded him as president.

The present officers are: Wm. H. Frank, president; Philip Geyer, Jr., vice-president; Hugo C. Gollmar, secretary; August W. Neumann, treasurer, and S. K. Senger, director.\*

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\*Personal sketches of these men will be found in a separate chapter.



THE FRANK BREWERY AS IT WAS IN 1898



THE BREWERY AT THE PRESENT TIME

Covering a Plot 250 feet by 265 feet; Cypress Avenue, Willow Street and Hancock Street

### **Allen & Van Dyke**

One of the interesting axioms that we have come across in writing up our local business is that many of the concerns that make little pretense as to outward display are doing the biggest business. We have in mind, as a good example of this, the remarkably successful firm of Allen & Van Dyke, Myrtle Avenue near Greene. This firm has quietly gone on growing in an unpretentious building at the address above mentioned, adding additions as found necessary, establishing branches in Boston and Jersey and doing an inter-State business that comes as a surprise to those unfamiliar with the large business that some of our local concerns are doing.

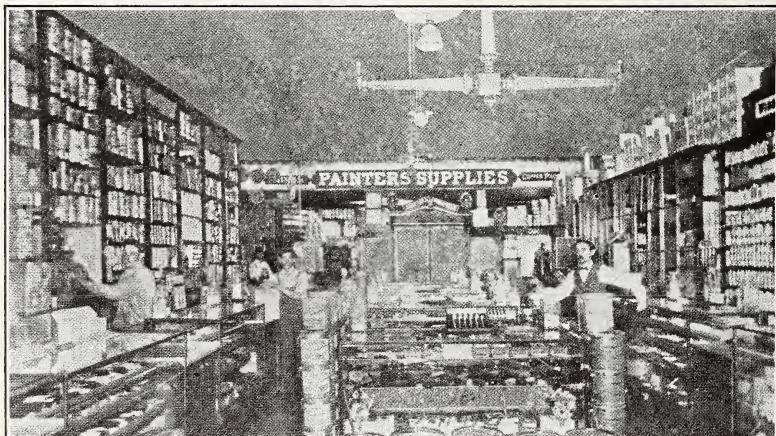
Allen & Van Dyke are the exclusive gasoline agents in Brooklyn for the Standard Oil Company, doing a very large business in this line. During a single day one can see as many as fifty to sixty automobiles stopping at the Greene Avenue entrance for gasoline and agents are supplied at wholesale throughout the entire borough.

The company does an extensive business in the manufacture of the familiar tin and blue enameled signs, such as "Please Close the Door," "Push," "Pull," "Enter Here," etc., that one sees in all public places, and also does an extensive business in door plates of every description. The company was the first manufacturer of enameled signs ever made to retail at 10 cents. This line is sold and distributed through canvassers and agents that are scattered all through the various states.

The largest business is, of course, done in the exclusive and well-known lines of paints, varnishes, stains and oils that are known as the "AL-VAN-ITE" brands, a name that stands for purity in paints.

The progressive spirit governing the affairs of the concern is best shown by the extensive advertising it does in trade journals, fence and house signs and novelties of a high order that are distributed free and that are well worth possessing.

Big concerns of this kind, even though



INTERIOR OF ALLEN & VAN DYKE'S RETAIL PAINT DEPARTMENT  
Myrtle Avenue, near Greene Avenue

unpretentious and too modest to proclaim their business from the housetops, are a credit to our section of which we should all feel proud.

#### Charles Rothenbach, Inc.

This concern, manufacturing sashes, doors and interior woodwork, occupies a large three-story brick building, located at 199 to 217 Starr Street and running through to Troutman Street. There are 38,000 feet of floor space, employing about one hundred and twenty men and does a business of about \$200,000 per year.

The business was established in 1904, at the present location, by Charles Rothenbach, and incorporated about two years ago, the stock being held by members of Mr. Rothenbach's family and he continuing as the active head of the business.

Mr. Rothenbach has organized his business into seven departments, over each of which there is a foreman, directly under his authority.

The business is a vigorous and growing one. Its success is due, in Mr. Rothenbach's opinion, to the prompt deliveries and low prices which superior equipment and large stock carried enables the concern to afford its customers, as well as to the reputation it has acquired for quality and honorable dealing.

As an instance of the energy and enterprise of the head of this plant, may be cited the fire which completely destroyed the original frame building in March, 1907. It was rebuilt of brick inside of two months and re-equipped with the latest wood-working machinery, saws of various sorts, planers, moulders, trimming machines, etc.

The product of this mill, consisting of sashes, doors, trim and interior wood-work of all sorts, is sold to builders and

contractors, not only in Queens County, but is shipped by rail to all parts of Long Island.

#### Adam Mann

Adam Mann, manufacturer of go-carts and baby carriages, 301 Grove Street, has the distinction of having been the first to manufacture and exploit the popular reed "Pullman Sleeper," which has proved to be such a great boom to mothers and a source of comfort and health to thousands of little ones.

The improvements and devices that he has introduced in the manufacture of baby carriages and go-carts, such as the foot well, reclining back, double coil spring, and etc., stand as a blessing that he has conferred upon the rising generation, lessening the possibility of accidents and making a day spent away from home a joy rather than a burden.

Mr. Mann conducts twenty-five branch shops in connection with his personal business and occupies the entire four-story brick building at 301 Grove Street.

Adam Mann was born December 1st, 1867, in Manhattan; was educated in the city schools, and at the age of twenty-three, married Miss Christiana Schaller of Brooklyn. Their one daughter, Blanche, married Carl Mann in 1911.

Mr. Mann's brother, Frank, is a popular municipal officer of New York, being Commissioner of Tenement Houses.

Having lived the past sixteen years in Greater Ridgewood, Mr. Mann's interest in its marvelous development is naturally most keen, because of his great success in business and high standing in the community.

Mr. Mann is a member of the Royal Arcanum and the Arion Singing Society of Brooklyn.

**Evergreen Steam Stone Works**

The Evergreen Steam Stone Works, Myrtle Avenue and Decatur Street, was founded by Eirich and Ruppenstein, in 1890, and was then situated at Wierfield Street and Railroad Tracks, just over Wyckoff Avenue. The firm prospered from the very beginning. In 1894 the name was changed to Eirich & Co. Mr. Lucas Breitenbach came into the concern in this year and proved a valuable addition to the concern. In 1905 the works were removed to Myrtle Avenue and Decatur Street, on the site on which the business is at present situated, taking in a piece of property of 123 feet front on Myrtle Avenue, 369 feet on Decatur Street and 200 feet in rear.

The works are well equipped with modern stone cutting machinery and are interesting to watch while in operation. One immense diamond saw, one shot saw and a number of small saws, assisted by two tremendous derricks and three small ones, do the work of cutting and hauling stones from one place to another, and when this preliminary work is done, the art of the stone cutter is brought into play to fashion the stones as required. The firm has practically supplied all the brown stone and granite fronts and stoops for the residences in Greater Ridgewood and does an extensive business outside the section.\*

**George Poll & Co.**

Another interesting industry that few people know about is that of George Poll and Co., 1918-24 Harman Street. Here surgical instruments of the largest and most minute kind are manufactured, as well as hospital furniture and supplies of all kinds.

The firm was originally started in 1893

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\*Individual biographies of members of the concern appear in another chapter of this book.

by George Poll and A. Ackerman, on a small scale and with a capital of only five hundred dollars. In 1902, Mr. Poll bought out Mr. Ackermann's interest in the concern and has since been sole owner.

The concern employs about thirty employees and turns out a volume of business amounting to from \$50,000 to \$60,000, exporting considerable of their instruments to Canada, Japan, China and different other parts of the world.

**Strubel's Ridgewood Iron Works**

Strubel's Ridgewood Iron Works, Inc., manufacturers of structural and ornamental iron and steel construction, 1604-08 DeKalb Avenue, and 100-2 Wyckoff Avenue, holds the distinction of being the oldest iron industry in the upper part of Brooklyn. The works were established in 1870 by John Strubel, deceased, in a small one-story frame building on 100 Wyckoff Avenue, which is still standing.

The business grew rapidly and in 1892, the oldest son took the management of the concern. In 1904, owing to the increased amount of business and the need for more factory space, property was bought on DeKalb and Wyckoff Avenues, and the building enlarged, until today the property occupied by the company covers a floor space of 16,000 square feet on a piece of property 100x100 feet on DeKalb Avenue by 60x100 feet on Wyckoff Avenue, and a large amount of stock is carried to meet all requirements.

On September 23d, 1912, the firm was incorporated under the name of Strubel's Ridgewood Iron Works. The officers at present are: P. Chas. Strubel, President; William Wilson, Secretary; John Wilson, Vice-President, and Joseph Strubel, Treasurer.

The concern has placed its work on and has had charge of the iron and steel



STRUDEL'S RIDGEWOOD IRON WORKS

construction of many local buildings. It has also done the work of numerous Government buildings throughout the State, as well as on municipal buildings in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Good workmanship, accuracy and promptness are the trinity that composes the business policy by means of which Strubel's Ridgewood Iron Works has built the wonderful business that the concern enjoys today.

#### **Our Darling Match Factory**

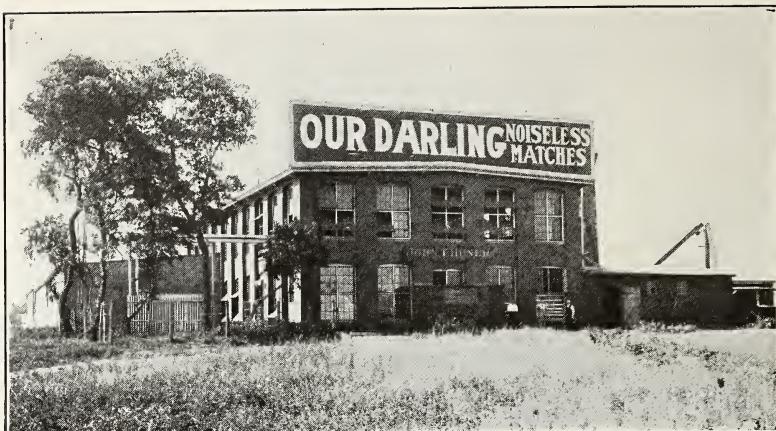
If Mr. Huner will be remembered for nothing else, he will be for his valiant single-handed fight against the Match Trust. Practically alone of all the match manufacturers, he fought for the right to pursue an honest industry and carried his fight to Congress.

When conditions were made clear to President Taft, a situation developed that forced the Match Trust to agree to

remove its patents on their product, and thus, Mr. Huner was still able to maintain his business independently.

The truth of the matter is that Mr. Huner had established a very successful match business by giving the public an honest match for an honest price. The "Our Darling" match is sold one thousand in each five-cent box, whereas, the combine sells matches at a cost of five hundred in each five-cent box. Besides this, the match that Mr. Huner manufactured is a noiseless double-tipped match that has met with popular favor.

Mr. Huner was born in New York City in 1856. Previous to entering the match business, he had for many years a wholesale grocery business. The present match factory, at Long Island Railroad Crossing near Myrtle Avenue, was established by Mr. Huner in May, 1904, and he remained sole proprietor.



#### OUR DARLING MATCH FACTORY

Before the disastrous fire in 1912, which destroyed the building

until his death, December 24, 1912.

The immense output of the "Our Darling" match factory is shown by the fact that Mr. Huner is continually oversold, more orders coming in than can be handled, and in a very short time, additional machinery will be installed, which will help add to the output. A visit through this modern factory is one of the sight-seeing treats of our section.

The factory is now managed by his two sons John T. and William G. Huner.

#### The North American Brewing Co.

In 1892, there was erected at the corner of Hamburg and Greene Avenues, the immense brick building which has been the home of the North American Brewing Company ever since its inception. This industry was organized and incorporated the same year, the incorporators being Charles and Gustave Doerschuck.

Year after year, owing to the wonderful increase of business, the plant has been enlarged by the erection of fine brick and stone additions, until today it covers the block bounded by Myrtle,

Hamburg and Greene Avenues, and has a capacity of 150,000 barrels of beer per annum.

The remarkable growth in business of the North American Brewing Company is due largely to the great energy, capacity for business details and foresight of Gustave J. L. Doerschuck, President, ably assisted by his sons, George C., as Vice-President; Henry R., as Treasurer, and Richard W., as Secretary.



THE NORTH AMERICAN BREWING CO.  
Greene and Hamburg Avenues



#### STREBEL IRON WORKS

Small house on right was moved from Myrtle Avenue and Willow Street, and formerly was used as a real estate office by Burkard and Schmidt

#### **Chas. Strebel & Sons**

Upon entering the office of Charles Strebel and Sons, manufacturers of structural and ornamental iron, 1732-46 Myrtle Avenue, one is immediately impressed with the tremendous amount of business carried on here.

The firm consists of Charles Strebel, who is now practically retired, and two sons: Henry, the eldest, who is the able, energetic and forceful leader in the firm's affairs, and Philip, who is in charge of the shop.

In order to show how rapidly and how constantly the firm has progressed, it is merely necessary to say that its business was begun in 1901 by Charles Strebel in a small building, 30x100, at 398 Harman Street. His two sons, Henry and Philip, have been with him from the beginning, but were not admitted to membership in the firm until 1906, by which time each had become a thorough iron man, familiar not only with the details of the factory, but also enjoying the confidence and possessing the good will of the firm's constantly growing number of customers.

The firm has manufactured structural

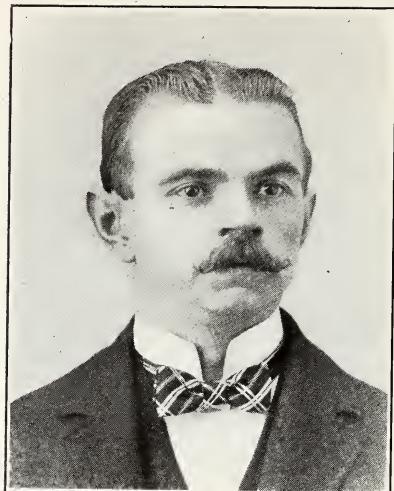
iron for almost all of the large building operations that have taken place in our section for the past eleven years.

Although the business methods of Charles Strebel and Sons are altogether on modern lines, it attributes its success to its adherence to ideals which are as old as the history of human industry: Promptness, thoroughness and technical accuracy and soundness. Every order given receives the personal attention of the members of the firm; is filled promptly at the time agreed upon, and is guaranteed to be a first-class job.

#### **Emil J. Wachter**

If you want to find a busy man, call on Emil J. Wachter, who conducts the hardware business at 515 Onderdonk Avenue near Bleeker Street.

Mr. Wachter was born in Baden, Germany, in 1872, and came to this country in 1879. He has been a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section for the past twenty-five years and his handiness and ability at all kinds of repairing, such as furnaces, leaders, cornices, tin-smithing, roof painting,



MR. EMIL J. WACHTER

etc., etc., has given him a distinct place in our midst and won for him the sobriquet of "the handy man."

In 1900, he married Louisa M. Kerner, and it is through her faithful assistance in the store that the inside business has grown to such large proportions. There are three children: Emil G., Joseph and Ferdinand.

Mr. Wachter has recently added enormously to his stock of general hardware and his business is the largest of its kind in the section.

He is a member of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, Catholic Benevolent Legion and Knights of Columbus and is fond of outdoor sports of every kind.

#### **John Huether**

The average person knows little about the fact that we have an industry in our section devoted exclusively to the manufacture of dumbwaiters; yet John Huether has been turning them out ever since 1906 in a small factory at 1615 Hancock Street, and his dumbwaiter is

in most of the houses in our section where dumbwaiters have been installed.

Mr. Huether was born in Brooklyn in 1873 and has lived there practically all of his life. In 1894, he married Helen Engel, and by her has six children: John, Mary, Anna, Catherine, Henry and Edward. Mr. Huether is a member of the Evergreen Board of Trade and the Cooper A. C.

#### **Welz and Zerweck, Inc.**

If the old adage "tall oaks from little acorns grow" was ever appropriately applied, it is so applied to the Welz and Zerweck Brewery.

The original brewery was established in 1859 by the late John Welz.

The brewery was first established in Scholes Street and Graham Avenue, in the old "Dutchtown" section of Williamsburg. Two years later it was moved to the building on Myrtle and Wyckoff Avenues, which is shown in the left hand corner of the opposite page.

In 1897, the brewery was made a limited corporation with John Welz, president; Chas. C. D. Zerweck, vice-president, and Henry Roth, secretary and treasurer. These three officers also comprise the Board of Directors and are the owners of all the company's stock.

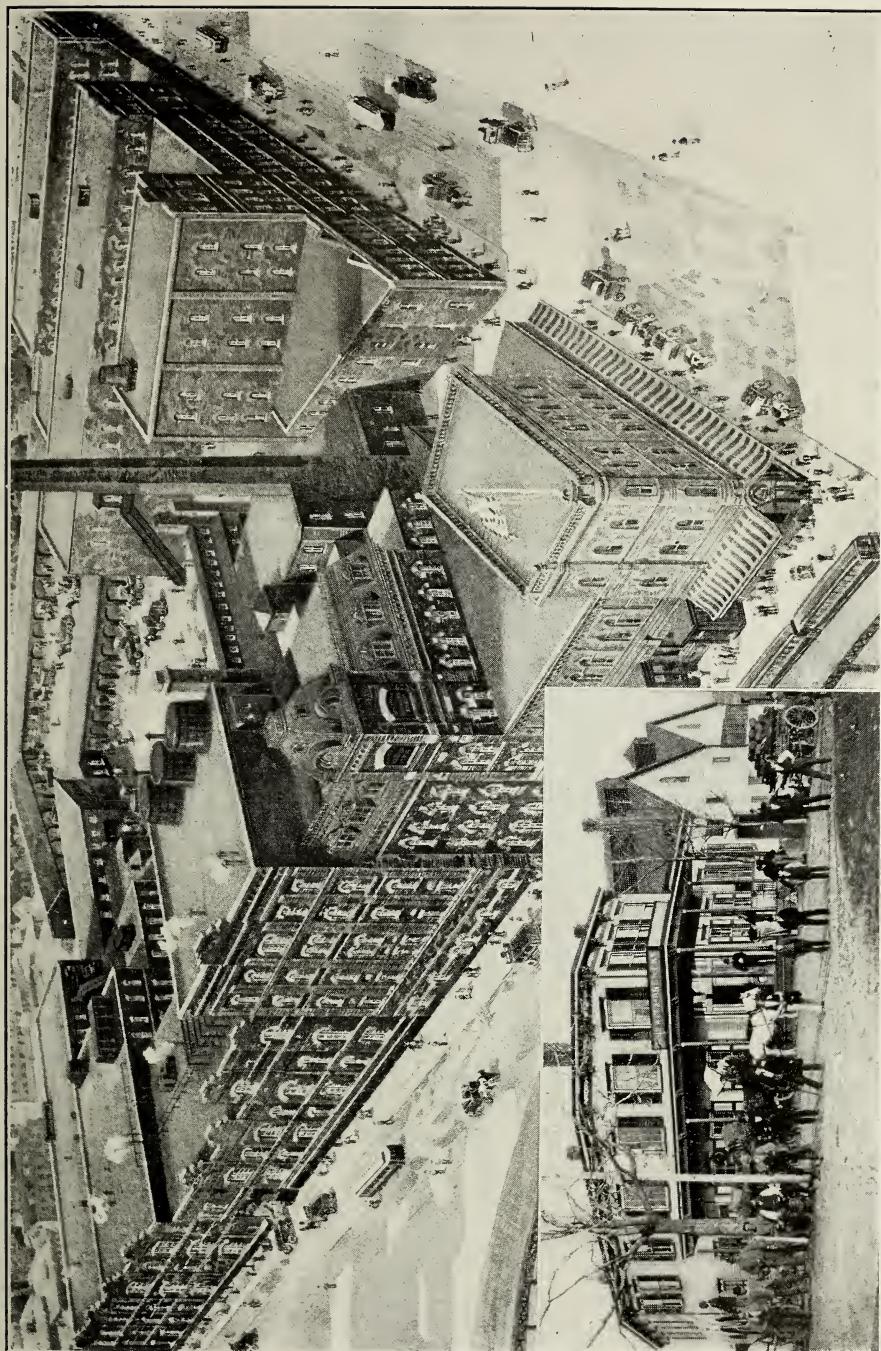
By turning out the best beer that the concern could possibly give to consumers the establishment grew, and from an output of 5,000 barrels a year in the beginning, the concern is brewing and selling more than 300,000 barrels per year, and the new additions that have been made allow a capacity of 500,000.

The entire plant and buildings, which include ice plant, brewery, bottling department, shipping department and offices, cover over four acres of ground.

The beer is sold in every part of Long Island and the Greater City and is shipped to distant parts, such as the Southern States, and Porto Rico.

WELZ & ZERWECK BREWERY

Showing growth from small beginning fifty years ago to present immense plant



**Standard Knitting Mills**

As trade follows the flag, so population follows industry. An unusual example of this was illustrated when the Standard Knitting Mills, one of the biggest industries we have, came to the Heights section in 1900 and took possession of the modern light and sanitary brick building on Grandview avenue, built especially for the company and extending from Ralph to Grove street, taking in an entire block and to which two new stories have been added within the last six months.

The coming of this industry into our section immediately provided a means of wholesome employment for several hundred employees and stimulated a desirable class of working people to locate in the vicinity, thus helping to populate the upper Heights section and enhancing property values.

The Standard Knitting Mills Co.,

Inc., which manufactures knitted underwear exclusively, was originally part of a different corporation, which was located at Sterling Place, Brooklyn. This corporation became divided, some of the members remaining until the corporation became defunct, while the other members came to Ridgewood and started the corporation which has since prospered so materially here in our section.

The officers are: Alfred M. Gentzsch, President; Wm. Marlow, Vice-President.

The concern is conducted along the most modern lines of business, always just ahead of the other leading knitting concerns and many of the advanced systems introduced originally in the Standard Knitting Mills have provided the cue for other mills to follow.

The concern manufactures knitted underwear exclusively.



STANDARD KNITTING MILLS

Largest Knitting Mills in section, Grandview Avenue and Ralph Street

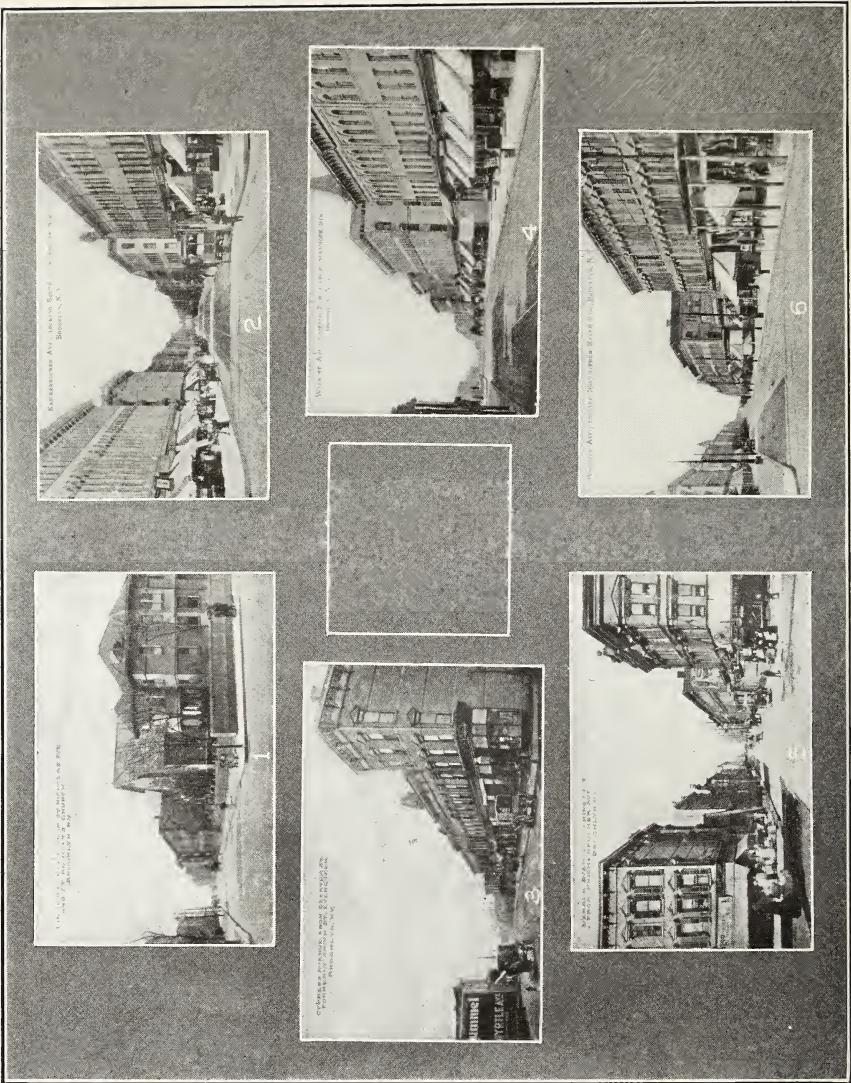
**PART VI**

**REAL ESTATE**

**BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES**

1—Linden Street from St. Nicholas Avenue, Showing  
St. Bridgid's Church  
2—Knickerbocker Avenue, looking South from  
Stuydam Street (formerly  
Cypress Avenue from Decatur Street (formerly  
Smith Street))

4—Wyckoff Avenue, looking North from Stanhope  
Street  
5—DeKalb Avenue, looking East from Knickerbocker  
Avenue  
6—Wyckoff Avenue, looking North from Ralph Street



## CHAPTER IX

### REAL ESTATE, BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES

#### **August Bauer**

Mr. August Bauer won his way up from a carpenter to be one of our section's most prominent builders.

Mr. Bauer was born in Unterfranken Bavaria, in 1860, and came to America in 1882. In 1893, he came to the Ridgewood section and embarked upon the business that has since given him prestige and a comfortable fortune. Mr. Bauer, up to the present time, on his own account, has built over three hundred houses and, in connection with his latest operation with the Bauer and Stier Corporation, he has taken part in building over two hundred new houses on the Wyckoff farm.

In September, 1888, Mr. Bauer married Anna M. Haasch. There are no children.

Mr. Bauer is a member of the Ridgewood Democratic Club, Evergreen Board of Trade, Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association and the Ridgewood Board of Trade, and has always been quietly interested in the improvements of the section in a general way.

#### **Carl Berger**

An amiable and agreeable disposition and extreme friendliness have been the traits that have won for Carl Berger his immense popularity in the section and have given him political influence of no small measure. Mr. Berger was born in Germany in 1869, but came to America when quite a young boy, and his creditable conduct in office and in political life have brought him a degree of prestige that any native born man might well be proud to claim.

Mr. Berger was inspector and plan examiner in the Tenement House Department from 1902 to 1906, and for one year during this time also served as School Commissioner. From 1906 to



MR. CARL BERGER

1910, he served as Superintendent of Buildings and is now engaged with Paul Stier, Inc., in the building business.

Mr. Berger is a member of Merchants Lodge No. 709, F. and A. M.; Fern Council, R. A.; Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, Ridgewood Board of Trade, Ridgewood Democratic Club, of which he is president; Ridgewood Democratic Building Association, of which he is president, and Second Ward Democratic Association, of which he was secretary.

Mr. Berger is unmarried and the girl who will be able to persuade him that married life is better than single blessedness deserves to be perpetuated, and we will surely grant her a position of honor in the supplementary volume of this History—PROVIDED she has succeeded by that time.



MR. HERMAN BALLWEG

**Herman Ballweg**

Mr. Herman Ballweg was born in Baden, Germany, in 1863, and came to America in 1880. About eight years ago, Mr. Ballweg gave up his cafe business at Knickerbocker Avenue and Melrose Street and went into the building business, wherein he has made considerable money.

He is a partner of Leopold Henn, and both have done extensive building during the last eight years. Their business operations at present are carried on mostly to keep them busy, both finding retired life irksome, and they have a splendid reputation for putting up good, substantial houses, and they have never found any difficulty in selling them.

In 1884, he married Susie Schwindt (deceased). There are two grown children: Herman and Minnie.

Mr. Ballweg is a member of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, Catholic Benevolent Legion, Bushwick Council, and is active in church work.

**Stephen Burkard**

Mr. Stephen Burkard, like Mr. H. Schmidt, has been in the building business for over thirty years, operating

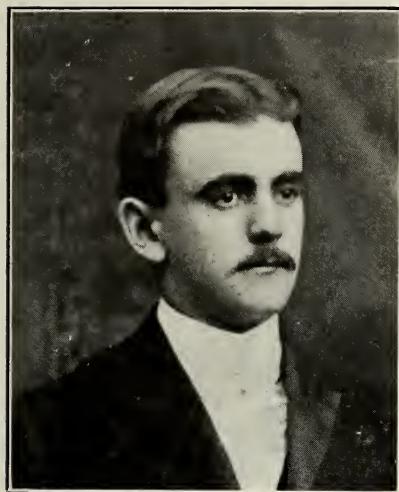
both alone and in conjunction with Mr. Schmidt. About eight years ago, he came to Ridgewood and under the name of Burkard and Schmidt, helped to build up stretches of property in the Ridgewood section. Mr. Burkard was always looked upon as an untiring and hard worker, and to this day, although advancing in years and well-off financially, he is still actively interested in real estate matters. He belongs to the group of builders who will always be looked upon as the group of big builders who transformed Ridgewood from farm land into the wonder and admiration of the Greater City.

Mr. Burkard was born in Stetten, Bavaria, Germany, in 1847, and came to America in 1871. He came to Ridgewood in 1897, after extensively operating in Brooklyn for fifteen years in partnership with John Dreyer, Anthony Meyer and Adam Metz.

Mr. Burkard married Elizabeth Wagenbrenner and by her has seven children: George, who is a physician; Louis, William, Otto, Stephen, Clara and Bertha.



MR. STEPHEN BURKARD



MR. LOUIS BURKARD

**Louis Burkard**

Mr. Louis Burkard is a native of Brooklyn and a son of the well-known builder of our section. Mr. Burkard studied pharmacy at the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy, from which he graduated in 1898, and for over ten years he conducted a successful business at 1649 Broadway. He disposed of this business to go into the building business, and in partnership with Stephen Tritschler, he built in all over 38 houses in two years. The partnership was dissolved voluntarily January 1st, 1912, with Mr. Burkard continuing the business. He is at present engaged in erecting what is the first twenty-family house in the Greater Ridgewood section.

The original office in which business was begun was in a small house at Myrtle and Covert Avenues, which has since been removed and is now the property of Chas Strobel & Sons. It is used as an office by the latter firm and now stands at the corner of Norman Street and Myrtle Avenue.

Mr. Burkard married Hermina B. Kihl in 1902, and by her has three children: Stephany, George and Otto.

**Robert T. Buttleman**

Mr. Buttleman is a well-known building contractor, who has, during the fourteen years in which he has conducted his own business, built hundreds of homes in both Kings and Queens Counties under contract, as well as about two dozen on his own account. Among the latter are five houses on Backus Street near Myrtle Avenue, five at the corner of Myrtle and Backus, and four at the corner of Buckman and Van Cortland.

He is also well known in Masonic circles and is at present Master of Schiller Lodge No. 304, F. and A. M. He was also Chairman of the Builders and Traders Association of Queens, and it was through his thoughtful instrumentality that this association, on disbanding, turned over the money in its treasury to the Ridgewood Day Nursery and the German Hospital. He is also a member of the Arion Singing Society and still retains his membership in the German Bricklayers' Union. He is an enrolled Democrat.

Mr. Buttleman began his career as a bricklayer at the age of sixteen, having had but four years schooling in this country, whence he had come with his parents when he was twelve years of age from Germany. He was born in Hamburg, December 31st, 1874.

On October 14th, 1896, he married Rose Thomas of Brooklyn, and has five children: Rose, who is a student at Erasmus, and Robert, Margaret, Herbert and Arthur, all of whom attend Public School 67 in Glendale.

Mr. Buttleman's home is at 2 Backus Street and his office is in the Ridgewood Times Building.

His favorite recreations are music, reading and chess.

**Christian Brandenstein**

Mr. Christian Brandenstein is typical of the group of self-made men in our section who started in a lowly way and made a success of what they took hold of.

He was born in Fuerstenwaldig, Koenigshaven, Germany, and came direct to Brooklyn in 1870. He started in the dairy business on the old Covert farm in the vicinity of Elm and Covert avenues, and disposed of this to take up farming in the vicinity of what is now the Halsey Street Park. From farming he went into the contracting business, establishing himself on old Grove street, between Cypress and Wyckoff avenues in the Evergreen section. He continued in this business for twenty-one years. Mr. Brandenstein then started building operations, building his first five three-story houses on Greene street in 1898; then two two-story and four two-story houses on McKinley avenue.

Mr. Brandenstein, in 1899, married Margaret Lang, a native of the Evergreen section, and up to a few years ago the family lived in the small picturesque Lang homestead, where Mrs. Brandenstein was born.

**Henry Buser**

Henry Buser, builder, was born in Rheinpfalz, Germany, in 1863, and came to America in 1881, settling in New York and later, in 1891, coming to Brooklyn, where, like the Martin Brothers, he entered the barber business, maintaining a well-known shop on Broadway near Gates avenue.

Mr. Buser relates interestingly how his salesmanship ability manifested itself thus early in the selling of a horse, and when he found that he could sell a horse, he figured that he could perform the same feat with a house, so he tried

his hand at the real estate business, with marked success.

In 1893, he established himself in this line of business, opening an office on Hamburg Avenue near Myrtle. In 1903, he came to Ridgewood and in 1904 started his first building operation, erecting eleven two-story brick houses on Webster near Myrtle Avenues. His next operation was on Myrtle Avenue between Thomson and Webster Avenues, where he erected eight two-story brick store properties and in partnership with Adam Pfundstein, he has just completed sixteen three-story and two-story store properties on Myrtle Avenue between McKinley Avenue and Hooker Street. He also built three houses on Tompkins Avenue, near Myrtle Avenue, Glendale.

In 1901, Mr. Buser married Margaret Bauer, daughter of Jacob Bauer, the well-known band leader and musician of Brooklyn.



MR. HENRY BUSER

**Bauer and Stier**

The firm of Bauer and Stier was incorporated in 1910 and consists of August Bauer, President; Paul Stier, Vice-President, and Louis Berger, Secretary and Treasurer.

Within two years after incorporation, this firm had completed the erection of over one hundred houses on the old Wyekoff farm, bounded by Madison Street, Woodbine Street, Palmetto Street, Putnam Avenue, Gates Avenue and Linden Street, from Cypress to

Myrtle Avenues. Three different types of houses were erected: two, three and six family, with many excelling features, among which are stone stringers on stoops, all outside walls furred, and leaded glass cabinets in dining rooms; and that these advantages, as well as the nearness of the property to the Ridgewood Terminal and the beautiful Bushwick High School, were quickly recognized by investors, is shown in the quick manner in which the houses were sold, many of them being purchased while the foundations were being built.



VIEW OF LINDEN STREET

One of the rows of high-class three-family brick houses on Linden Street viewed from Cypress Avenue. Built by Bauer & Stier, Inc.

**Bock & Bartz**

For fifteen years, the firm of Bock & Bartz has been building in Ridgewood so extensively that they are now classed among the biggest and most successful builders in the section. They have built over 500 houses in our section alone and an equal number in the city at large. The Ridgewood Bank, on Myrtle and Cypress Avenues, is one of the buildings constructed by them, as well as a whole block on Onderdonk Avenue, between Harman and Greene Avenues; a block of two-family houses on Woodward Avenue, between Harman Avenue and Himrod Street; a block of brick houses on Linden Street, between Fairview and Grandview Avneues, and innumerable other rows of houses, as well as scattered homes, within a period of fifteen years. They are now at work building the theatre on Myrtle and Covert Avenues for Hartman and Kaplan.

Both partners have never put their hands to anything but building, and so successfully and amicably have they faired with each other that the partnership has resulted in prosperity. Both are well-to-do property owners.

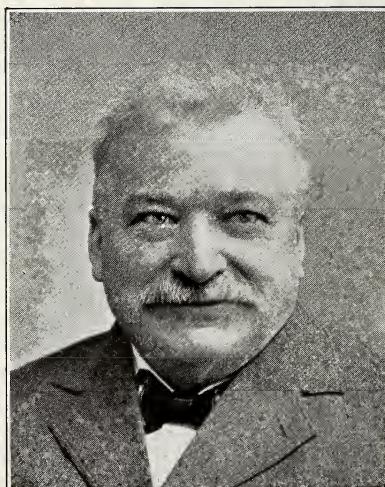
Mr. Bartz is a naturalized American having come to this country about 26 years ago. He is treasurer of Grandview Benevolent Society and member of several others. Mr. Bock is also prominent in civic and social activity in Ridgewood.

When Bock and Bartz started to build in Ridgewood, there was nothing out here but farms and forests, so that we may safely say they were actually pioneers in the construction of Ridgewood homes.

**John Braunreuther**

John Braunreuther was born at Bayen, Germany, December 26th, 1853. At the age of twenty, he came to America and was soon involved in real estate speculations and building on his own account. His business policy, peculiar to himself, is worthy of note; "never leave for tomorrow what you can pay today." It is through his repeated and untiring efforts that the lower part of Onderdonk Avenue is now in presentable condition. Being one of the first inhabitants of Ridgewood, he remarks with great pride, that he remembers the time when he used to pick flowers on the site of the present Ridgewood Times building.

Mr. Braunreuther is a fervent and enthusiastic admirer of Schiller, Goethe, Lessing and Heine. His marriage to Clara Orgelfinger, born in Brooklyn, was a union of most fortunate outcome, their happiness being enhanced by eight children, equally divided; four girls and four boys, five of whom are married.



JOHN BRAUNREUTHER



MR. JOSEPH BARUDIO

**Joseph Barudio**

Mr. Barudio has the honor of erecting Pastor Frey's church, school and vestry in 1892, St. Leonard's Church basement, All Saints school and parish house, St. Benedict's Church, St. Barbara's parish house, etc.

His personal operations extend over a period of ten years and cover forty-eight frame houses on Woodbine Street, Woodward Avenue and Palmetto Street, Myrtle Avenue and Grove Street; twenty-four houses in Linden Street; seven brick houses on Hart Street near Irving Avenue; nine houses on Suydam Street, near the park, in partnership with Charles Fritz; fifteen brick and frame houses on the Van Size farm, covering Forest Avenue, Elm Avenue and Palmetto Street; four houses on Palmetto Street, between Grandview and Woodward Avenues, and thirteen four and six-family houses on Covert Avenue, recently completed.

Mr. Barudio was born in Heselbach, Rheinpfalz, Germany, in 1848, and came to America in 1879, settling in Brooklyn.

Mr. Barudio is a member of St. Joseph's Verein of St. Leonard's Church, Bau Verein of St. Leonard's Church, Schwaebischer Saengerbund, Ridgewood Board of Trade and trustee of the Bushwick Council Benevolent Association. He served with distinction during the "Deutscher Krieg" in 1870-71, and is a member of the Deutscher Veteran Verein.

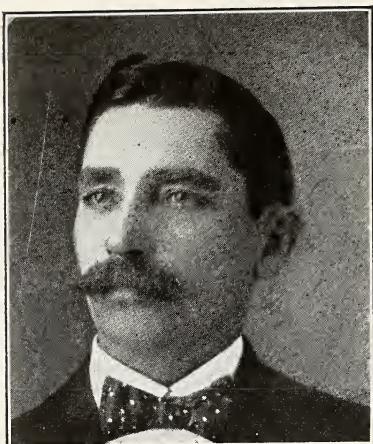
**Charles Fritz.**

Mr. Charles Fritz was born in Baden, Germany, in 1869, and has been in Ridgewood since ten years of age. His first building operations were started in 1895, when he built nine six-family house on Suydam Street. In 1905, in partnership with Adam Metz, he built twelve houses on Himrod Street, between St. Nicholas and Cypress Avenues, Metz going to Europe before the houses were finished and sold. In 1906, Mr. Fritz went into partnership with Mr. Barudio. (See sketch of Joseph Barudio).

Mr. Fritz has traveled a number of times to Germany and has been a liberal donator to St. Mathias Roman Catholic Church.



MR. CHARLES FRITZ



MR. CHARLES DITZEL

**Charles Ditzel**

Mr. Charles Ditzel has the distinction of being one of the first building operators in the Ridgewood Heights section, coming here about nineteen years ago. He bought property from the Martin Brothers and built his first house at Grove Street and Onderdonk Avenue in 1892. He was the first to start building on Ralph street on one side, from Woodward to Grandview Ave.

Mr. Ditzel was born in Hannau, Hessen, and came to America in 1882, going with his parents to Toledo, Ohio, where he served his apprenticeship as a carpenter for three years before coming to Brooklyn in 1889.

He was foreman and general manager before starting in on his own account and had already put up his own home before starting in business for himself.

In 1891, he married Catherine Scholl, by whom he has five children: Elizabeth, Amelia, Charles Adam, Catherine and August.

He is forty-five years of age, is a member of the Schwaebischer Saengerbund, Peter Cooper Lodge, Sons of Herman, and a number of fraternal organizations.

**Christian Doenecke**

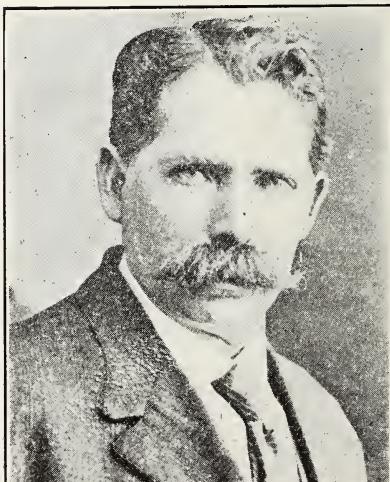
Four hundred houses in a quarter of a century is the record which Mr. Doenecke as building contractor has made for himself. Half a hundred of them have been erected right here in Ridgewood within the last decade. Nor is this all—Mr. Doenecke is contemplating another row of houses, which will materially help toward the development of our section.

Mr. Doenecke was born in Germany in 1859. Being required to serve in the German Army, he "skipped" to America in 1880 and has been a resident of Brooklyn since.

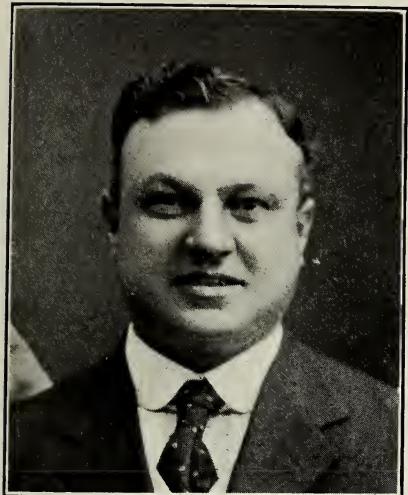
In 1892, Mr. Doenecke married Katherine Kaeppl, by whom he has seven children: two boys and five girls.

Mr. Doenecke has always confined himself to building operations, and it is this perseverance, enhanced by his active business ability, which accounts for his success.

The Doenecke mansion on Washington Avenue is a comfortable home and its unique structure invites the curiosity of passersby.



MR. C. DOENECKE



MR. JOHN A. FISHER

**John A. Fisher**

John A. Fisher was born in New York in 1865 and was brought to Brooklyn when two years old. Twenty years ago Mr. Fisher came to Greater Ridgewood, opening the first furniture store in the section at what is now Siebert's place on Myrtle Avenue, near Greene. Mr. Fisher also conducted an extensive furniture factory in Maujer Street, doing \$68,000 worth of business annually, and sending furniture as far as Canada and the extreme West. He also at one time did a piano manufacturing business and was a partner in the large firm of Schreiber & Co. on Broadway. Since then, Mr. Fisher has gone into the real estate and building business, becoming the pioneer builder on Richard Avenue, Edsall Avenue and Thompson Avenue Glendale, where he has erected twenty buildings.

Mr. Fisher married Francis Schwerer in 1887, and by her has two children: Francis and John A.

He is at present established in the furniture business at St. Nicholas and Myrtle Avenues.

**Fred Grenell**

To be ready and on the spot when opportunity knocks at your door is the secret of many a man's success. Mr. Fred Grenell happened to be in the Ridgewood Park and Myrtle section of Ridgewood at the psychological moment.

In 1910, he went into building operations in the Myrtle section with Siegfried Schmidt, and after making a success in this venture a larger operation necessitated a stronger organization, and in 1911, the building firm of Schmidt, Holtermann and Grenell was organized to carry on the building operations on Center Street, Weirfield Street, Seneca Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, in the Ridgewood Park and Myrtle sections.

Mr. Grenell was born in Cologne, Rhein Province, in 1861, and after traveling throughout Europe and Africa for a well-known German importing concern for years, he came to America in 1897.

In February, 1889, he married Franziska Mentrop, by whom he has one daughter, Ada, married to Richard Dettinger. The grandchild is Frances.



MR. FRED GRENELL



MR. LEOPOLD HENN

**Leopold Henn**

Mr. Leopold Henn was born in Baden, Germany, in 1855, and came to America in 1881.

For twenty-three years he was in the dry goods business, starting on a capital of \$75 and working his way up until he had a successful business, from which he later retired. In 1903, Mr. Henn came to Greater Ridgewood and his influence in the section has been of a beneficial kind. He organized and was vice-president of the Wyckoff Heights Water Co., which had an office at Stroh's old hall. This company sold out not long after its establishment to the Citizens' Water Supply Co; he helped to organize the People's Bank and the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers Association.

In partnership with Herman Ballweg, he has built over fifty-five houses.

In 1883, Mr. Henn married Marguerite Huber, by whom he has three grown children: Frank, Agnes and George.

He is an old member of the German Liederkrantz Society.

**Franz Hempelman**

Franz Hempelman has a unique career as a builder. He started in as a baker and then five years after, arriving in Ridgewood in 1893, he ventured into the real estate field, selling lots for the Germania Real Estate and Investment Company and acting as manager. His first attempt at building was on Greene Avenue. Later he built at the corner of Ralph Street and Onderdonk Avenue to save the neighborhood from a factory that was threatened to be built there.

Mr. Hempelman was born in Essen, Germany, in 1856, and came to America in 1885. In 1881, he married Elsie Hafner, and by her he has one daughter, Mary (married to Michael Heeg.)

Mr. Hempelman is a member of the Ridgewood Democratic Club, Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, Schwaebischer Saengerbund and Lessing Lodge, F. and A. M. He is fond of reading, science and history, and has a very nice library of his own.



MR. FRANZ HEMPELMAN

**John Heusner**

Mr. John Heusner, as elsewhere described in Mr. Raedler's biographical sketch, has built over sixty houses in our section, and although now retired, he still keeps himself occupied with real estate matters.

Mr. Heusner was born in Schenklenfsfelt, Greis Hersfeld, Birchskassel, Germany, in 1864 and came to America in 1881.

He started in the building business with Jacob Raedler and was for many years identified with him in building operations.

In 1887, he married Katherine Raedler, a sister of Jacob Raedler, and this union has been blessed with nine children, one of whom is dead. The others are: John, Charles, Katherine, Henry, Walter, Arthur, Martha and Henry.

The pork and provision business, which Mr. Heusner established, was turned over last August and is now being conducted successfully by his son John, at 24 Forest Avenue.

Mr. Heusner made a pleasant trip with his wife to Germany three years ago.

On his own account, after partnership with Mr. Raedler was dissolved, Mr. Heusner built twelve houses in our section.



OLD MILLS FARMHOUSE

Mills Farm is now St. Johns Cemetery. House is birthplace of Superintendent McCluskey

**Baltheuser Klee**

Mr. Baltheuser Klee was born in Hessen Darmstadt in 1866 and came to America in 1884.

In 1896, he came to the Ridgewood section; but, before this, in 1891, he had already invested in the section, buying the first lot from the Long Island Real Estate Ex. and Investment Co. Since then he has erected numerous buildings, principally throughout the Heights section, and at the present time has quite an extensive contracting business in the building line.

In 1887, he married Margaret Wenzel, and by her has four children: Elizabeth, Margaret, Katherine and Walter.

Mr. Klee was secretary of the early Ridgewood Improvement Association and was one of those who took an active part in the early days in getting better postal service.

He is popular in social circles and is a member of the Hessian Saengerbund and Copernicus Lodge, F. and A. M., No. 545.

**Cyprian J. Loeffler**

Mr. Loeffler is one of our prominent and successful builders. The Strubel Iron factory, brick houses on Himrod Street, Grandview Avenue and numerous other streets, are the work of Mr. Loeffler. All told, Mr. Loeffler, within the eleven years that he is in business for himself, has constructed 700 houses in this locality. He has done work for Barudio, Ignatz Martin and many prominent other builders. Mr. Loeffler formerly worked with his father in the contracting and building line, and after nine years, started in business for himself. He has succeeded remarkably well in his vocation and is now one of our wealthy citizens.

Mr. Loeffler is Secretary of the Father Hauptmann Council, C. B. L.; of the



CYPRIAN J. LOEFFLER

Ridgewood Heights Maennerchor, and of the Young Men's Sick Benefit Society.

Mr. Loeffler was born in La Salle, Ill., on August 7th, 1880, and married Miss Mary Brown in 1904. Their marriage has been blessed with two children: Mary and A. Justin. For twenty-four years, Mr. Loeffler has been a resident of our section and now resides in a comfortable home on Himrod Street.

#### **George E. Loeffler**

Mr. George E. Loeffler is mighty in the development of Brooklyn real estate. His property, Forest Parkview, is a monument to his capacity as a successful developer. His other properties, which were eminently successful, are located at Southampton, Eastport, Middle Village and Farmingdale, Long Island. Also, he has successfully developed and sold two developments at Plainfield, New Jersey. At this time, most of his energy and creative power are centered on his new development, "Watchung Estates," Bound Brook, New Jersey. The "Watchung Estates" is upwards

of 150 acres, and its geographical situation is superb. It will be a development that is compelling and satisfying because of its environments. Nature is very kind to the "Watchung Estates."

Mr. Loeffler is a second generation in affairs that are real estate. His father, George Loeffler, was a very successful builder and real estate dealer in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. He was of the mind that the best was not too good, hence his developments are permanent establishments to his business sagacity and worth. Our subject, Mr. George E. Loeffler, is a product of Brooklyn. His personal and business friends are legions, hence the best testimony as to his genuine worth.

#### **Albert Markert**

Albert Markert, the well known real estate man, developer and builder, and the President of the Markert Realty Co., has developed two very important localities in our section, namely, Forest Parkview and Cooper Heights. Of course, Mr. Markert has also done considerable general building in our section, as well as in Jamaica. He is an American by birth and character, having the true optimistic Americanism in his personality. He was born in Brooklyn in June 7th, 1874, and was married to Katherine Loeffler in 1879. As a young man, Mr. Markert was connected with a manufactory in confectionery, but as soon as he saw his opportunity in the real estate line, he took hold of it and hammered away at it until he shaped his success. He is now developing by himself a large area in South Jamaica Manor.

He is like a "fish" in water, and loves all sorts of water sports. Another favorite hobby of his is reading. Mark Twain and De Maupassant are his favorite authors.



MR. IGNATZ MARTIN

### Ignatz Martin

Pluck, and a natural aptitude for speculation, are the qualities that lifted an insignificant barber boy of Brooklyn from the lowest beginnings to become one of the foremost real estate operators in our section, with an estimated fortune of over \$300,000. Ignatz Martin conducted a barber shop on Central Avenue, Brooklyn, when sixteen years old. At the age of eighteen, he bought his first house on Schaeffer Street by paying down the unusually large deposit of \$3, which he supplemented with a further payment of \$300 later on. His first investment proved profitable. He sold the property and immediately bought again, investing in a saloon business, but, at the same time, still continuing his real estate operations.

In 1886, he bought the Lock and Griswall farm, two acres; in 1888, he bought the Henry Cammon farm, fifteen acres, on Myrtle Avenue and Trotting Course Lane; in 1890, he bought the Covert farm, thirty-five acres, and

in 1891, the Smith farm, five acres. All these he laid out in lots. In 1892, he bought the Doscher farm, thirty acres, which extended from Elm Avenue to Bleecker Street, to Covert Avenue, to about Prospect Avenue. This venture proving successful, he bought the Covert farm, organizing the Long Island Real Estate Exchange and Investment Company, with headquarters at Deckelmann's Ridgewood Park, and doing a land-office business in selling lots, the sales exceeding everything known. Nothing was thought of selling forty lots on a Sunday morning, and the entire tract was sold in one year.

About this time, Mr. Martin also ventured in the building line, starting to erect brick houses on Hancock Street, and was the first builder on the Heights that erected sixty four-family brick houses at Woodward and Onderdonk Avenues, with Joseph Barudio—selling at that time for \$4,500; today are worth \$7,500—part of which were brick and which were a novelty at that time. Proving successful in this line, Mr. Martin associated himself with his younger brother, William, in building operations and built eighty houses. He began building, with William Martin, frame houses on Woodward Avenue, Woodbine Street, and in the vicinity of the Railroad Crossing, the latest of which has been on Silver and Hughes Streets, where twenty-four brick houses have been erected. Every house that Mr. Martin has erected has been sold.

Ignatz Martin was born in New York and is a descendant of a family that was part of the old German settlement that is still known as the old Astor Estate settlements, and came to Brooklyn when quite young. Aside from the manifold business interests, Mr. Martin has done extensive travelling at home and abroad and spends a considerable part of each

winter in Bermuda and Florida. He is a member of the Arion Singing Society, Schwaebischer Saengerbund, Turn Verein, Captain of Williamsburg Schuetzen Gesellschaft and to other organizations.

Mr. Ignatz Martin has also the distinction of being classed among the first-class target shots in the country and holds innumerable medals as marks of honor along this line. The honor of political office has several times been flatteringly extended to Mr. Martin, but he has modestly declined political honors, although he takes the active interest that a good citizen and American takes in his party affairs and, in a quiet way, exerts an influence in local politics that is not generally known.

His civic interest is equally as great. From 1890 to 1896, he owned "Our Own Water Co.," charging a very reasonable rate for water. He has hired lawyers to fight the people's battles, notably that in connection with the Cord Meyer Water Company's excessive charges for water, and has liberally helped the Ridgewood Times, through advertising, whenever the paper was engaged in some hot fight for the benefit of the people of our section.

#### William Martin

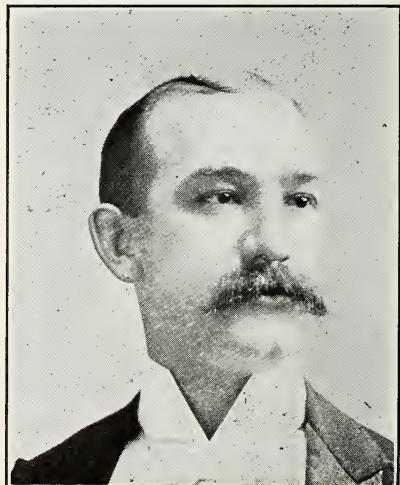
Mr. William Martin, brother of Ignatz Martin, was born in New York City in 1870 and came over to Brooklyn in 1882, while still a youth; engaging, as did his brother, in hard work, soldering at Ketcham's factory on Union Avenue at the small salary of \$3.00 per week.

In the great development brought about by the Long Island Real Estate Exchange and Investment Co., Wm. Martin took an important part; and, as described in the biography of Mr. Ignatz Martin, he is at the present time associated with his brother in extensive building operations. Mr. Martin also deserves the

credit of having induced prominent builders, such as Barudio and Fritz, G. X. Mathews, Wenzel and Merkel, to come and operate in the Ridgewood section. He took part with his brother in 1894 in opening up what is known as the Richmond Hill Terrace Development, and thousands of buyers, both in Ridgewood and Richmond Hill, can be thankful for the early investments made through the hard development work of the Martin Brothers.

Aside from business, Mr. Martin is interested in politics and enjoys the reputation of always lending his assistance to any worthy political issue that appeals to him. Whenever his interest is thus won, he goes into it heart and soul, demonstrating his good citizenship and loyalty to the welfare of the Ridgewood section.

Like his brother, he is passionately fond of traveling and automobiling. In the summer he spends his vacation at Sullivan County and in the winter spends several months in the South.



MR. WILLIAM MARTIN

**Gustave Xavius Mathews**

Mr. Gustave Xavius Mathews, head of The G. X. Mathews Co., was born in Palatino, Bavaria, Germany, in 1871, and came to America in 1886.

To his genius must be attributed the wonderful success of the company since its organization. In 1900, Mr. Mathews married Clara Kuntz (deceased), daughter of the well-known building operator, and has four children: Ernest L., Curtis, William Elliott and Gustave X., Jr.

He is a member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade and Queensboro Democratic Club and finds his principal enjoyment in automobiling and traveling.

**Ernest Mathews**

Ernest Mathews was born in Palatino, Germany, in 1873, and came to America in 1886.

In 1903, he married Elizabeth Schrumpf of Harlem. There is one child, Ernest, Jr.

Mr. Mathews is a member of the Jamaica Bay Yacht Club and one of the founders of the Queensboro Democratic Club.

**Adolph Mathews**

Adolph Mathews was born in Palatino, Germany, in 1870, and came to America in 1886. From 1895 to 1902, he conducted a bakery at Myrtle Avenue and Ralph Street.

He is a member of the Third Assembly District Regular Democratic Association, Queensboro Democratic Club, and other organizations.

**G. X. Mathews Co.**

About ten years ago, that section of Queens County now known as Ridgewood Heights, was nothing but farm land under cultivation. Today it is transformed into a modern city of 125,000 people.

One of the earliest developers of this



VIEW OF "MATHEWS' MODEL FLATS" ON CORNELIA STREET AND ONDERDONK AVENUE

One hundred and fifty of these six-family houses now under construction on "Meyerrose Farm" adjoining Myrtle Avenue "L"

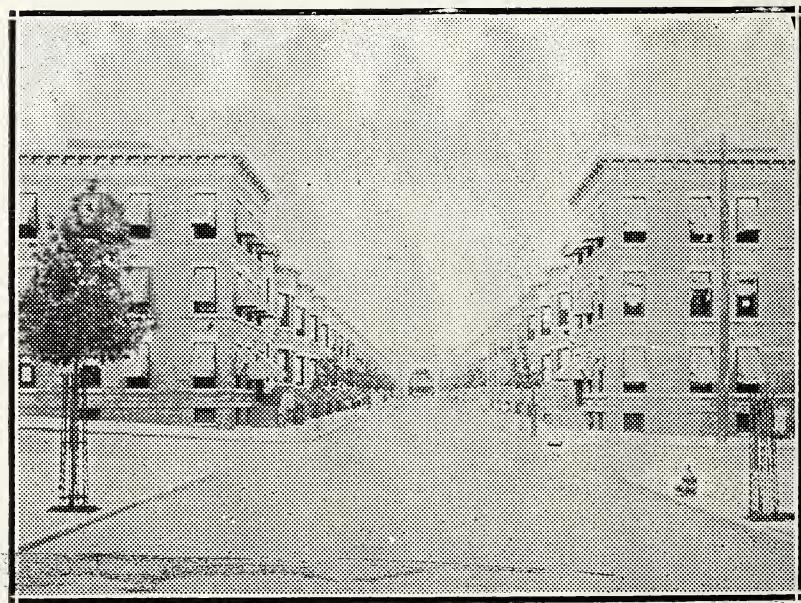
section was The G. X. Mathews Realty and Construction Co. It was the first to cross the border into Queens and begin operations on a large scale, developing and building up Grove Street, Linden Street and Bleecker Street, through the Wyckoff tract of land and numerous streets.

With the advent of the Tenement House Law, the G. X. Mathews Co. made a specialty of tenement houses, and after completing their operations on the Wyckoff tract, the company bought in 1907, the Fleckenstein farm on Forest Avenue. This it developed by laying sewers, grading, curbing and paving the streets, and then building up the whole section with the well-known "Mathews' Model Flats." This plan developed by Mr. G. X. Mathews, has since been adopted by many other builders in this and other sections. After erecting over one hundred six-family "Mathews' Model Flats" on the Fleckenstein farm,

The G. X. Mathews Co. then bought the Meyerrose farm, on which it is now constructing two hundred more of the same model brick tenements.

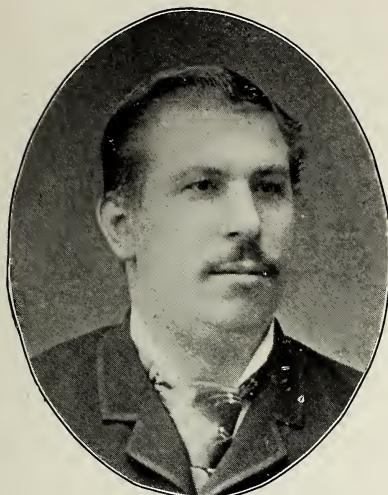
The demand of the "Mathews' Model Flats" has demonstrated the superiority of this type of house over many others. Rows of these houses are hardly finished before they are rented and sold. During the year 1911, the Tenement House Department records show that The G. X. Mathews Co. received twenty-five per cent, of the Tenement House Certificates in Queens County. The certificates show proper and lawful construction of these buildings.

Tenement houses of the Mathews' model are wholly different from those of a few years back. All light rooms, baths, all improvements, and what is more important to all the tenants, cheap rents, cheaper than anywhere in Greater New York and still superior to the more expensive city flats.



VIEW OF CORNELIA STREET

Looking from Buchman Avenue toward Fresh Pond Road and showing elegant two-family houses erected in 1911 and Spring of 1912 by Paul Stier, the largest single operator in Greater Ridgewood. All of these houses are sold.



MR. GEORGE PETER OBACH

**George Peter Obach**

George Peter Obach was born in Schriesheim near Heidelberg, Baden, Germany, on November 16th, 1863, and came to Brooklyn in 1881, arriving alone without relatives in this country and without a single cent in his pockets.

Mr. Obach had learned the trade of miller in the old country, but arriving here he entered the bakery business, serving six years as an employee and for over fifteen years as a master baker.

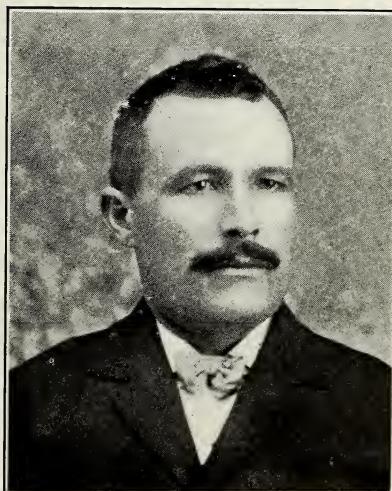
In 1903 he came to our section and began to take up building operations, his first operation being three frame houses on Covert (now Seneca) Avenue corner Bleeker Street; then followed in succession on Covert (Seneca) Avenue corner Linden Street, four frame houses; four brick houses corner Bleecker Street; four brick houses corner Palmetto Street between Palmetto Street between Covert and Onderdonk Avenues, and five brick houses on Elm Avenue between Myrtle and Covert (Seneca) Avenues.

In 1886 he married Margeretha Roese by whom he has one son, George T. Obach, Jr., who is connected with the police department at police headquarters, New York City, as stenographer and typewriter and who is married to Mary Missig, daughter of Anton Missig, the well known baker who is now retired and who lives at 18 Dry Harbor Road, Forest Parkview.

Mr. Obach is fond of traveling and has taken six different trips to the country of his birth. He is a member of the Williamsburg Boss Baker Association. He has always been interested in fighting for local improvements and is at present Vice-President of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association.

**Jacob Raedler**

Wherever there was fighting to be done for improvements, Jacob Raedler was there. His interest did not end with the selling of his houses. He assisted



MR. JACOB RAEDLER

those who bought from him in getting their streets paved and in securing other improvements.

Mr. Raedler was born in Rheinpfalz, Germany, in 1868, and came to Brooklyn in 1888. In 1891, he came to our section and after being in the framing business for over ten years, he started to build his first one-family frame house in 1904 on Bleecker Street and Fairview Avenue. His next operation was five four-family frame houses on Hart Street in partnership with Heusner; then four four-family frame on Harman Street; then again in partnership with Heusner, seven four-family frame on Harman Street, opposite Spitzer's houses; two in Bleecker Street, two in Grandview Avenue, three in Himrod Street near Woodward Avenue, twelve six-family brick in Harman Street on Wyckoff farm, six six-family on Himrod Street, four six-family store property on Woodward Avenue, eight six-family on Putnam and Covert Avenues, three in Cornelia Street, three in Woodward Avenue, four on Covert Avenue, one at Himrod Street and Covert Avenue, twelve three-family at Onderdonk and Edsall Avenues and five six-family and one three-family on George Street. He also built one four-family on Harman Street in partnership with John Schaible, in all over eighty houses.

In 1890, Mr. Raedler married Ottilia Genghoff, by whom he has six children: Emma, Tilly, George, Katherine, Rose and Nicholas.



MR. KILIAN SCHURGER

#### Kilian Schurger

Kilian Schurger has the very enviable reputation of being the easiest and most pleasing man to get along with. Mr. Schurger is kindly towards everybody who has any dealings with him, and probably this is the secret of his wonderful success as a building operator in Ridgewood. Mr. Schurger has built within the last few years over two hundred private dwellings and has co-operated in every movement for the upbuilding and benefit of the Ridgewood section. His recent building operations have been confined to Forest, Woodward and Elm Avenues, in close proximity to St. Mathias' Roman Catholic Church.

He was born in Germany on December 25th, 1863, and came to America in 1881, landing in New York City.

On November 10th, 1885, he married Elizabeth Weidner, by whom he has two children: Carolina, eighteen years of age, and Minnie, twenty-four.



MR. HENRY SCHMIDT

**Henry Schmidt**

Just as Germany had its "grand old man," a term affectionately applied to William the Great, so we have an affection for Henry Schmidt, now retired, whose magnetic personality, friendliness and kindness endeared him to local people. Mr. Schmidt had already operated in Brooklyn, both alone and in partnership with Stephen Burkhard, for a period of over thirty years, and eight years ago he came to Ridgewood, buying up the old DeBevoise farm on the southerly side of Myrtle Avenue, belonging to the Newtown Church, and building thereon store property that now stands as a monument to his energy, his ability as a builder, and his honesty and integrity as a business man.

Mr. Schmidt was born in Bavaria, Germany, June 2nd, 1843, and came to Brooklyn in 1885, starting in the real estate business in the old Williamsburg section.

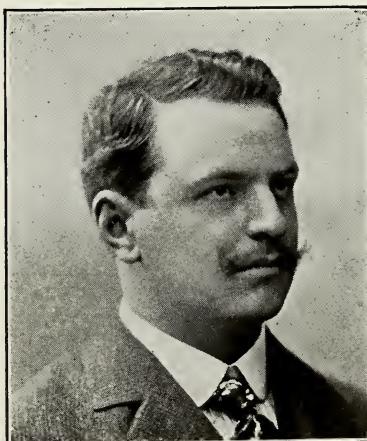
In 1863, he married Elizabeth Grubel, by whom he has one son, Siegfried.

**Siegfried Schmidt**

Early training makes for thoroughness and probably few other builders in the section received the early training along the lines of architect and builder as did Siegfried Schmidt through his connection with his father's operations. He received a training that was as thorough as that insisted upon in Germany and which makes German builders so thorough in their work, and when his father retired, Ridgewood felt pleased to see the son enter into the work in partnership, first with Fred Grenell, and later, in 1911, as a member of the firm of Schmidt, Holtermann and Grenell.

Mr. Schmidt was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 12, 1877, and came over to this country with his parents.

In June, 1903, he married Frieda Eichhorn, and by her has one child, Henry Clifford.



MR. SIEGFRIED SCHMIDT



MR. PAUL STIER

**Paul Stier**

Mr. Paul Stier has the reputation of being the largest single building operator in the entire Greater City of New York, having built more than seven hundred houses in the Ridgewood section within the last five years, or on an average of over one hundred and twenty-five a year. He started as a practical mason, and his success outside of his salesmanship ability, is based on his practical experience, his integrity and hard, untiring work.

Mr. Stier was born in Schwerin, Mecklenberg, Germany, in 1874, and came to America in 1891 as a cabin boy, alone and a stranger. He went to Buffalo and started in as a mason, but soon secured the opportunity of traveling about in various parts of the country, working on large buildings, and by dint of hard work and faithful service, winning promotion to the position of foreman and superintendent.

In 1902, he started in as a builder on

his own account, beginning what has since become the largest individual building operations in the whole section. He started with one building. At the present time, he builds fifty and one hundred at a time.

He is said to be the richest builder in the Greater Ridgewood section and his total operations aggregate over 750 buildings during the last ten years.

In 1898, Mr. Stier married Anna Muller and by her has two children: Elsa, who is now in "The Castle" board-school for girls at Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, receiving special training, and a son, George, seven years of age.

He is a member of F. and A. M. No. 322, Star of Bethlehem, Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, and founder of the Jefferson Democratic Club.

**Henry Schlachter**

Henry Schlachter is another one of our self-made business man. He was born in Germany, in 1860, and has been in the Ridgewood section since 1886 and began his career here as a mason.

His many building operations included St. Aloysius School, St. Matthias Rectory, houses on Gates Avenue, Onderdonk Avenue, Covert Avenue, Palmetto Street, DeKalb Avenue, Alpha Place, between Myrtle and Cooper Avenues, and Elm Avenue. His first building operation in Queens was in 1890. In connection with Mr. Schlachter's building activities, he also conducted a second-hand lumber business on the property that has since been cut through and which is now the triangle bounded by Covert, Elm and Myrtle Avenues.

In 1882, Mr. Schlachter married Susanna Stadelmann, by whom he has six children: Adam, Henry, Elizabeth, Mary, Christian and Susie.

**Joseph Schildknecht**

Joseph Schildknecht, was born in Boersch, Elsass, Germany, December 17th, 1865.

In 1888, Mr. Schildknecht started his lumber and hardware business in a modest way and in this period of time has netted him an independent fortune, due to his close application and hard work for which he is known.

Mr. Schildknecht is a member of the Evergreen Board of Trade, Odd Fellow's No. 370, President of Maenner Kranken Unt. Verein of Ridgewood and member of Frat. Elsassius of Brooklyn.

**George Spitzer**

In business, George Spitzer has grown up with the vicinity that he helped to build. He is the builder of more than three hundred houses in Greater Ridgewood as a contractor, and has built between forty and fifty on his own account. He is also the builder of the new church, of the school and rectory of St. Aloysius (the church in conjunction with Mr. Hildebrand), and of a Methodist Church at Evergreen and Woodbine Streets.

Mr. Spitzer came to this section about twenty-three years ago. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, January 3, 1860, and received his education in the Parochial Schools there. In 1880 (July 17th), he arrived in this country alone, without a relative or friend to welcome or accompany him, and with but two dollars in his pockets. He had learned the carpenter trade at home, but could not find work as a carpenter, and was glad to take a job in a factory, where he remained for three years. He then resumed his trade and worked for several years as a journeyman and then as a foreman. Twenty-three years ago he came to Ridgewood, locating first at Stockholm Street near Wyckoff Avenue,



MR. GEORGE SPITZER

and began for himself by doing small jobs, repairs, etc.

A few years ago he built his present home, shop and office at 1868-1879-1872 Harman Street.

On August 16th, 1905, three hundred guests gathered to help celebrate the silver wedding anniversary of George Spitzer and Barbara Miller, which took place one month after their arrival in this country in 1880—both having come over on the same ship—they undertook to continue their journey through life together. There are five children: Mamie, who married Frank Lang, the printer of Greene Avenue; Michael, who married Rose Dens, lives at 1887 Stockholm Street and works with his father; Joseph, a printer; Cora and George, who is a student at the Newtown High School.

Mr. Spitzer is a member of the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association and of the Catholic Benevolent Legion and St. Joseph's Society of St. Aloysius Church. He is the Democratic County Committeeman from his district and is a stockholder of the Ridgewood National Bank. He is fond of fishing and bowling.



MR. FRED THOMSEN

**Fred Thomsen**

Fred Thomsen's name is identified largely with the building operations of the Glendale section of Greater Ridgewood. Coming into the section more than twenty-one years ago, he has erected over two hundred buildings for speculative purposes on his own account and as many again in contract for other persons. His principal operations were confined to two, three, four and six-family houses in Myrtle Avenue, Folsom Avenue, Hooker Street, Thomsen Street and Wyckoff Avenue, Glendale.

Mr. Thomsen had the contract work for building the German Methodist Church in Folsom Avenue, the English Methodist Church on Cooper Avenue, and the Episcopalian Church on Washington Street.

Mr. Thomsen came to America from

Germany in 1890. He has one son, Henry, and one daughter, Meta.

**Louis Warmers, Jr.**

Mr. Warmers is one of our most active real estate men and building contractors, and has been connected with the building of several hundred houses in Ridgewood and immediate vicinity. Mr. Warmers was graduated from the College of the City of New York and has also taken several courses in engineering at Cooper Union. He entered into partnership with Frank N. Obrien and the firm carried on a successful law and real estate business. This partnership was recently dissolved, and Mr. Warmers went into the business for himself.

Mr. Warmers was born in New York City on November 11th, 1858, and has been a resident of Brooklyn since 1880. He is a member of numerous organizations, civic and social. Among others, he is a member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, Manual Lodge, 636, F. and A. M.; 22d Democratic Association of Kings County, member of County Commission, Ridgewood Taxpayers' Association, honorary member of Saginaw A. C., and is captain of his district for the Democratic party.

Mr. Warmers is fond of all the classic authors, American and German, and likes music very much.



MR. ALBIN WAGNER

**Albin Wagner**

There is no man who finds more pleasure in his particular business than Albin Wagner. The building business is an art with him which he studied in the old country, and his interest in it brought him back to it again after establishing a profitable liquor business which he conducted for many years.

Mr. Wagner, within the last four years has built over forty model brick houses on Lotus Avenue, Yale Avenue, Glasser Street, Harman Avenue and Dill Place, on lots bought mostly from the Yale Development Co., and at present he owns the hotel at Dill Place and Cooper Avenue, which he erected according to ideas of his own.

Mr. Wagner was born in Sachsen-Thueringen, Germany, in 1863, and came to America in 1889. In 1897, he came to the Ridgewood section. In 1883, he married Eloise Ewald, by whom he has one son, Albert, who now conducts the hotel business at Dill Place and Cooper Avenue.

**Richard Weber**

Richard Weber, whose father attained world-wide fame as the discoverer and manufacturer of Weber's Alpine Tea, was born in Brooklyn in 1872. 46 Sumner Avenue, which was made famous as the home of Weber's Alpine Tea, was also his home, as well as his birth-place, and he has lived there all his life.

Mr. Weber is rated as a millionaire and his connection with the Ridgewood section came about when he bought and developed the immense tract of land that had been known as the DeBevoise farm. This farm was in the vicinity of Dill place, St. Felix Avenue, Millwood Avenue and other thoroughfares in the immediate vicinity, which Mr. Weber laid out and improved before his building operations were begun.

Mr. Weber is a member of the Sixth Assembly Republican Club, Arion Singing Society, President of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, member of the Finance Committee of the Ridgewood Day Nursery and a stockholder in the Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Company.

His philanthropies are well-known, and his gifts to charity done in a quiet way are manifold.

In 1911, he married Louise D. Maynard, of Manhattan, and by her has one son, Richard, Jr.

(For photograph, see Directors of Ridgewood Times.)

**Cornelius Werberig**

Mr. Cornelius Werberig is a man who has built or done the framework for about one thousand houses in Brooklyn and Queens County since he became a boss builder in 1886.

He was born in Wurtzburg, Germany, September 16th, 1858, and arrived in this country, alone, in December, 1879. He came here equipped with good health and energy, a common school education



MR. CORNELIUS WERBERIG

and the trade of house-framer. From the day of his arrival until the year 1886, he worked continuously for the same employer.

Besides the hundreds of houses that he framed, Mr. Werberig has built more than fifty houses in Greater Ridgewood on his own account,—on George Street, Cypress Avenue, Forest Avenue, Edsall Avenue, Fresh Pond Road, and a row which he has just completed at Myrtle Avenue, corner Folsom.

Among the more notable buildings which Mr. Werberig has framed, he recalls especially the Brooklyn City Hall's new roof and clock tower, when it was repaired after the fire in 1893, and Schwaben Hall in 1893.

December 27th, 1881, Mr. Werberig married Katherine Bachmann, a native of Rheinpfalz, Germany, and has eight children and eight grandchildren: John and Cornelius (both of whom are structural engineers in the Navy Department at Boston); Margaret, who married George Tome, has five children and lives

at Jefferson and Anton Avenues; Katherine, wife of Pastor Frey, who has two children; Anna, wife of Harry Matans, of Folsom Avenue; Elizabeth, organist of Pastor Frey's church for several years; Charles, a student at Concordia College, preparing for the Lutheran ministry, and Charles, a pupil of Public School No. 88.

Mr. Werberig visited his old home in Germany on a trip which he made to Europe in 1910—arriving at his old home on September 16th, precisely the day upon which he had left it for America exactly thirty years before.

He is a member of the Ludwig Verein, of the Fueier Gergensage, K. U. V., and of Walter's Bowling Club. He was one of the members of the old Meyerrose Club, and is an attendant at Pastor Frey's church.

His favorite recreations are bowling, billiards, hunting and fishing, and he is in the habit of making an annual hunting trip to Connecticut.

#### **Early Property Maps**

The first property map, according to Mr. Walter I. Browne, laid out in lots in the Heights section, was in the vicinity of Covert and Stockholm Streets, in 1868, the owners being Adair and Nostrand.

The Glendale map was laid out in 1869 and 1873, and the name of this section is said to have been given it in the early sixties by George S. Schott, who came from a town in Ohio named Glendale, and who acquired considerable part of the section in payment of a debt; and East Williamsburgh, which was the official name until recently of the Queens part of our section, was laid out in August, 1851, being at that time known as Winantville. Covert Avenue and Farm was laid out in September, 1864, and Woodward Avenue and Farm was laid out in 1834.



MR. JOHN A. CROMARTY

**John A. Cromarty**

Mr. John A. Cromarty, for two years past, has managed the selling end of Forest Parkview. He is an expert real estate salesman. His success with the company has been pronounced. Moreover, Mr. Cromarty is a thorough real estate man. From the spade to putting the finishing touches on a completed building, he knows to a full measure.

He is a member of the Glendale Taxpayers' Association and Forest Park Taxpayers' Association.

Mr. Cromarty will also associate himself with the Watching Estates, at Bound Brook, New Jersey. He will mould this property into shape, and we are sure it will take its place as a first-class development.

He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1882, and came to America in 1888. Previous to becoming associated with Forest Parkview, Incorporated, Mr. Cromarty was associated with prominent developers in Westchester County.

**Julius Haas**

Probably there is no one who will not concede the fact that Mr. Julius Haas is one of the most untiring men in his particular line of business. Mr. Haas was born in Manhattan in 1862 and has been a resident of our section for the last ten years. He is special agent for the Equitable Life Insurance Company, New York Fire Insurance Company and general agent for Queens and Brooklyn for the Concordia of Milwaukee, New York Plate Glass Insurance Company, etc.

In 1862, he married Bessie Stern, and by her has ten children, five of whom are dead. Those surviving are: Jonas, Jacob, Joseph, Herman and William.

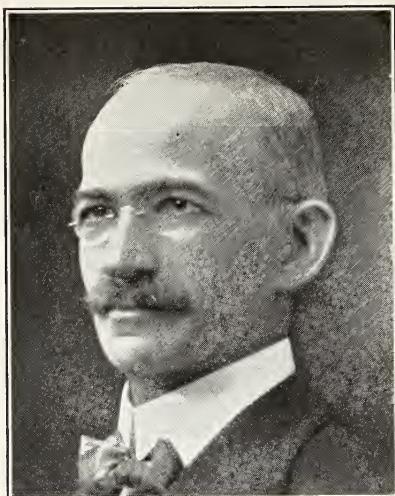
Mr. Haas has established a splendid reputation for integrity and fair dealing in his business of real estate and insurance, and has been able to hold most of his clients during many years of severe competition in this field. For a long time he conducted an office in the Ridgewood Times Building, and has since removed his office to his home, 240 Covert Street, Evergreen.

**Leon Luft**

Mr. Leon Luft, one of our most prominent real estate brokers, has the distinction of having the largest individual record for the sale of lots in the Greater Ridgewood section. He was born in Lemberg, Austria, in 1868, and came to America in 1893.

Mr. Luft established his first real estate office at Park Avenue near Broadway; from there he moved to 165 Hamburg Avenue; then to 882 Broadway; then to 1873 Myrtle Avenue, and from there in 1910 to 171 St. Nicholas Avenue.

Mr. Luft started to sell lots in Greater Ridgewood in 1905 and since then has sold over three thousand lots, equivalent to \$2,500,000 worth of property, in the Myrtle, Forest Park, Golf Links, Woodhaven, Glendale and East Ridgewood



MR. LEON LUFT

sections, buying up tracts and selling them again to builders for houses.

In 1910, Mr. Luft organized the Leon Luft Realty Corporation, of which he is secretary and treasurer.

He organized a second corporation known as the Myrtle Realty Holding Co., in all of which he is the majority stockholder.

In 1895, he married Regina Wittner, by whom he has three children: Sophia, Bella and Alma. He is a member of Mount Moriah No. 27, F. and A. M., and associated with many charities and has the distinction of being the organizer and prime mover in the praiseworthy Hebrew Educational Alliance of Greater Ridgewood, and is a director in the Hebrew Home for the Aged and of the Free Loan Association.

#### **John Merk**

Mr. John Merk, who is associated with the firm of Merk and Gohlinghorst, real estate operators, is one of the early pioneers of the Heights section, settling there over twenty-one years ago. Mr. Merk started his career in Brooklyn as

a barber and later went into the liquor business at Gates and Onderdonk Avenues and then at Woodward Avenue and Ralph Street. He disposed of this business to go into the real estate business, and here is where he made his greatest success.

Mr. Merk has always been active in civic affairs and was one of the charter members of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association. He is also a member of the Jacob Bennett Relief Circle, A. Marx Pinochle Club, and is president of the Gemuethlichkeit Pinochle Club.

Mr. Merk was married to Elizabeth Moser on February 22d, 1862, and by her has two sons: John and Philipp.

(For photograph, see group of prominent members of Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association.)

#### **Herman Ringe**

Herman Ringe, real estate and insurance broker, represents another branch of the Ringe Family which settled in Metropolitan about 1853. Mr. Ringe's father ran a general store in the frame building at Metropolitan and Forest Avenues for many years, and the old building, now more than seventy years old, in which the subject of this sketch was born, still stands.

Mr. Ringe has been prominent in Queens County politics for many years, and served as Secretary of the Borough during 1906, '07, '08, and also as Chief Clerk of the Highways Department. He also has served as Chief of the Newtown Volunteer Fire Department for two years, as well as Chief of Battalion, and was the first Foreman of Metropolitan Engine Company No. 12. He has been a trustee of the Newtown Fire Department for the past ten years.

His civic activities have been manifold, and any movement for civic betterment has had his active and energetic support.

**Louis Richter**

Mr. Louis Richter was born August 27th, 1848, at Schkeuditz, Province Saxony, Prussia. He was raised and educated at Landsberg and received a common school education. His father procured him at an early age private teachers, and employed him while at school to attend to his correspondence. It was at this age that the foundation was laid for his later life.

Fortunate circumstances put him in contact with learned and polite society after he had left school at the age of thirteen and one-half years. During ten years he had the benefit of this kind of environment; visited foreign countries, and was helped along in many ways. Through the influences of his connections, he landed in the United States after the close of the Franco-German War. He made his way successfully here in financial and commercial life, acquired practical knowledge which opportunity offered, and finally settled in Glendale in 1889. He now busied himself with public questions; took active part in taxpayers' organizations and other interests, which had public improvements in view. Mr. Richter has always claimed to be an independent man, not subservient to any interest or clique of men. He was appointed under Mr. Bermel's administration as a member of the Local School Board, District No. 44, which position he still holds. Mr. Richter owns an extensive library and is fond of good pictures, music and flowers. He is most happy when he can attend to his trees and prune his grapevines, and, most of all, when he can spend the night hours with his revered philosophic friends of antiquity. A plain man in his habits punctilious in his engagements, rather diffident in public and ever ready to help his fellowmen.

(For photo, see Group of Directors of Ridgewood Times.)



MR. CHARLES RASKOPF

**Charles P. Raskopf**

Confidence in the proposition that he was handling finally won for Charles P. Raskopf the success that he now enjoys. Mr. Raskopf believed in Ridgewood, heart and soul, especially in the great value of Myrtle Avenue as a business thoroughfare. He talked Ridgewood to every person that he thought he could interest and was the means of getting many builders into the section who since became rich through their operations. In the four years of his real estate operations he has sold personally over \$164,000 worth of property.

He was born in Brooklyn in 1877 and has been a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section for the past fifteen years.

Previous to entering into the real estate business, he conducted a tonsorial establishment in the Produce Exchange, Manhattan.

In 1900, Mr. Raskopf married Barbara Dillman, by whom he has five children: Lloyd, Harry, Walter, Helen and Charles, Jr.

He is a member of St. Barbara's R. C. Church, and is also a member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade and other organizations.



MR. NATHAN STERN

**Nathan Stern**

Nathan Stern, of 236 Floyd street, who has been a partner of Charles P. Raskopf for the last two years in Ridgewood real estate, has made a record in the joint partnership that stands out as a demonstration of what a young man can do in the selling line who has the clean-cut appearance, friendly personality and agreeable qualities that Mr. Stern possesses. With Mr. Raskopf he has handled the selling part of the immense Richard Weber building operations on the property known as the DeBevoise farm, and both are doing a hustling business in general. The offices of Raskopf and Stern are in the Ridgewood Times Building, Myrtle and Cypress Avenues.

Mr. Stern was born September 25th, 1872, in Manhattan, and was brought to Brooklyn by his parents one year after. Mr. Stern was a musician from his twelfth year until his twenties, when he became dancing master and held some of the largest carnivals in the City of Brooklyn.

In 1905, Mr. Stern entered the real estate field, taking charge of all of the

real estate affairs of Richard Weber of the Weber Medical Tea Company, whose friendship he has enjoyed for the last twenty years.

With Mr. Raskopf and through the assistance of the Ridgewood Times, he was instrumental in getting up a monster petition to retain Cooper Avenue, which was intended in 1912 to be eliminated from the City map, a proceeding that would have involved an enormous assessment upon local property owners.

**Strohecker & Reuter**

It is very interesting to note the quick manner in which some of our local men have made their successes. This is the case with Strohecker and Reuter, who have succeeded in establishing a large and lucrative real estate brokers business in a very short period of time.

Compelled by a condition of ill health and need of change of climate to leave his native town, Mr. Strohecker came from Reading, Pa., where he was born July 6th, 1867, to our section. Here he started anew at his trade of painting and decorating, and it was not long before he had again established an extensive business; but, desirous of bettering his opportunities, he branched out into the real estate business, entering into partnership with Mr. Reuter in 1912.

In 1891, Mr. Strohecker married Anna Muringer, by whom he has one child, Raymond. He is a member of the Myrtle Improvement Association, St. Matthias R. C. Church, and a member of many local fraternal organizations.

Frederick W. Reuter, partner of Mr. Strohecker, was born in Brooklyn in 1876, and has been a resident in and about the Ridgewood section for more than twenty years. His acquaintance ship is extensive and has been the means of assisting him considerably in his business.

Mr. Reuter is very genial and friendly and, like Mr. Strohecker, is very systematic in his business methods, and has those energetic traits that are so necessary to possess in the real estate business.

Mr. Reuter reads considerably and finds his favorite recreation in fishing and water sports. He is unmarried.

#### **Geo. W. Schwille**

Although Mr. Schwille is not a resident in Ridgewood, he has been so much engaged in Ridgewood's real estate and improvements to warrant a place in a history of this kind. Mr. Schwille is greatly interested in the growing success of Ridgewood and believes that in the very near future, Myrtle Avenue will be a second Broadway. When the great question of widening Myrtle Avenue was pending, Mr. Schwille did all that was in his power to curb its effect, which would have meant an assessment of many dollars on all the property owners adjacent to Myrtle Avenue.

Mr. Schwille was born in Brooklyn on April 21st 1873, and has been a resident of Brooklyn all his life. Until he was twenty-five years of age, he was in the baker business. He then started in the real estate business for himself, at which he has had remarkable success, owing to the active manner in which he applied himself to this new business and his honest and fair dealings which he exercised toward every client who comes to him to do business. Mr. Schwille has established a very large clientage in this way.

In 1901, he was married to Barbara A. Loeffler, by whom he has had three children: one girl and two boys. Mr. Schwille is a member of the Foresters and Masons and Ridgewood Board of Trade.

Mr. Schwille is a great lover of nature and automobiling is his favorite pastime.



MR. CHARLES W. SCHREIBER

#### **Charles Schreiber**

Mr. Schreiber was born in New York City and came to Brooklyn in 1896. His first real estate brokerage business in Brooklyn was done at the office that he established at Broadway and Park avenue at a time when this was still largely a German neighborhood. In 1907 he moved his business to Ridgewood, following the real estate trend to this section and opened his office in the small shanty that still bears his name across the top, on Myrt'e avenue near Gates. From here he moved to larger quarters at 1522 Myrtle Avenue.

Mr. Schreiber is confining his efforts and specializing almost exclusively now in Greater Ridgewood, feeling that the possibilities here merit his full attention.

Mr. Schreiber is affiliated with the Williamsburger Saengerbund, the Morgan Avenue Catholic Young Men's Society and K. of C., Marquart Council, No. 288, but his greatest interest, he finds in his home life. He has one little daughter, Theresa M., aged three years, and one son, Carl R., a baby of five months. Mr. Schreiber is married to Mary T. Braun.



MR. CHARLES F. WERNER

**Charles F. Werner**

Already among the best known real estate and insurance brokers in this section, Charles F. Werner, who is a son of Henry Werner, ex-President of the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association, gives abundant promise of becoming an important factor in the business and public life of his community.

He has a well organized office and a conscientious and sympathetic way of taking care of his clients' business. He is also a great student of matters pertaining to his business.

He is an active member of the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association and as Chairman of the Taxes and Assessments Committee, has rendered valuable services to its members.

Charles F. Werner was born in New York City in 1887 and educated at the public schools, including P. S. 86 and P. S. 74 of Brooklyn.

He has been a member of the Central Y. M. C. A. for more than ten years and is interested in athletics and boating.

**Franz Franz**

Franz Franz came to America with hope and courage in his heart and exactly two marks in his pocket. Believing that there was opportunity over here for everyone who was willing to work, he awaited his chance with patience until the real estate "boom" came on. He then started in the real estate business and as a building contractor. His rise in the business was rapid.

Mr. Franz was born in Bavaria in 1847. In 1873, he married Anna Siegfried, by whom he has three boys and three girls. He developed part of Jamaica Heights and built, all told, sixty-five houses in our section.

Though Mr. Franz is now a property owner and retired, his assiduous nature does not permit him to be idle. He has a fifty-two acre farm in Ronkonkoma, to which he goes each summer, and every morning he is up and ready to work at the manual labor connected with this farm. He loves the farm and the healthy exercise connected with the work on it.



MR. FRANZ FRANZ

**William H. Wolfe**

Mr. William H. Wolfe, Secretary of the Glendale Taxpayers' Association, was born in Brooklyn in 1877, and has been a resident of the Glendale section for the last twenty-five years.

Mr. Wolfe's home, at Cooper and Ridgewood Avenues, is considered one of the prettiest in the section and is an old landmark, standing about forty-five years.

Mr. Wolfe was formerly in the publishing business in New York and at one time in the Money Issuing Department of the United States Treasury. At present, Mr. Wolfe is a real estate and insurance broker, doing a large and successful business in these lines.

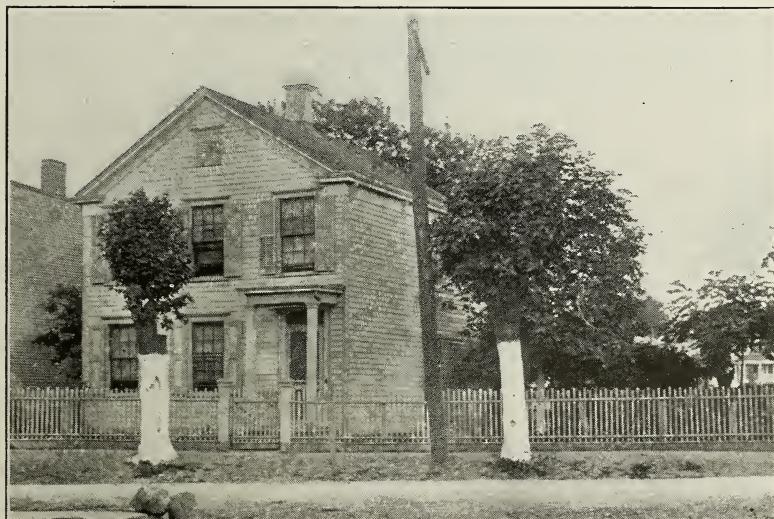
Mr. Wolfe's civic pride and public-spiritedness are shown not only in his great activity in the civic affairs of his section, but also in the beautiful gar-

dens that he maintains and that surround and help to beautify his home. He has a stock of prize-winning poultry, of which he is also very proud. His other favorite hobbies, outside of poultry raising, center in gardening, rare flowers, plants, photography and outdoor sports.

Mr. Wolfe is unmarried.

**Dummies on Cypress Avenue**

May 30th, 1879, dummies were first run on Cypress Hills Plank Road. Puffing engines with four and five cars left the stable of the old Myrtle Avenue Park on Knickerbocker Avenue, every holiday and Sunday, taking the crowds to Cypress Hills Cemetery, occasionally extra engines served as derricks to pull the overloaded trains up the hill, when the crowds were too large.



HOME OF WM. H. WOLFE  
At Cooper and Ridgewood Avenues



MR. WALTER I. BROWNE

**Walter I. Browne**

Walter I. Browne has the distinction of practically knowing every foot of ground in the Greater Ridgewood section; his work as Civil Engineer and City Surveyor permitting him to become familiarized with the entire territory from its farmland days, twenty-six years ago, up to the present time. He has done the surveying work for practically every big builder in Greater Ridgewood and for scores of property owners, establishing a high record for himself in his profession and amassing an independent fortune.

In a social way, he is one of the best-known and most sociable men in our section.

Mr. Browne is possessed of what in German is called "the Wanderlust," being passionately fond of travelling. He has traveled through all of Europe and considerably in our own country. His other hobby, like that of all Americans, is baseball.

Mr. Browne is a member of the Elm-

hurst Taxpayers' Association, the Mis-pah Lodge, F. & A. M., Progressive K. of P., Newtown R. A., Second Ward Democratic Association, Ridgewood Democratic Club, Odd Fellows Maennerchor, Schwaebischer Saengerbund, Ridgewood Heights Maennerchor, and many others.

In 1859, Mr. Browne was married to Susan A. Way and by her has seven children: Frank L., Grace I., Walter I., Jr., Charles Sumner, Arthur S., Leslie T. and Mildred A.

**Matthew Bennett**

Mr. Matthew Bennett is a resident of the section since 1902. He opened his first business in the Glendale section at Myrtle and Lafayette Avenues; later he moved to Buchman Avenue, where his business now is. A branch is conducted at 1533 Metropolitan Avenue.

Mr. Bennett was captain of the 21st E. D. in 1908, 1909 and 1910, and has a



MR. MATTHEW BENNETT

host of friends among the taxpayers and rentpayers in this Election District.

Mr. Bennett has exercised a large interest in civic affairs, being responsible for a number of improvements in his election district. He built the Van Cortland Avenue and Buchman Avenue Sewers at a time when these streets were greatly in need of sewer facilities. He also did the larger part of the plumbing contracting work on the Paul Stier's houses.

Mr. Bennett is a member of the Free Masons, No. 275; Sylvan Grove, Red Men; Montauk Lodge, B. P. O. Elks, No. 878; Queens Lodge, Foresters of America; Master Plumbers' Association and Volunteer Firemen, Engine No. 9, and many other associations.

In 1903, Mr. Bennett was married to Clara Lapere, by whom he has one child, Charlotte.



MR. GEORGE BERGER

### George Berger

In tracing the physical development of Ridgewood, George Berger, contractor, of 22 Forest Avenue, enters as a factor worthy of high mention. Besides, Mr. Berger has unselfishly devoted his time in bringing property owners to co-operate together in order to get much-needed improvements.

Mr. Berger is too well-known in our section for his extensive street paving to necessitate enumerating the successful contracts he has put through, but it is reasonable to assert that he has been the means of saving the property owners considerable expense by organizing them and showing them how they can have their streets paved under private contract instead of waiting for the City to come along and do the work, charging an assessment far in excess of what the owners would have to pay under private contract. His work has always been satisfactory and his good will in behalf

of the taxpayers is fully appreciated by his neighbors and property owners throughout the section.

Mr. Berger was born in Brooklyn on November 13th, 1874, and has lived in his native city all his life. In September, 1896, he married Mary Dietz, and their union has been blessed by four children, all girls.

Among other social and political connections, Mr. Berger is an active member in the Second Ward Democratic Club, Third Assembly District Democratic Association, Wm. Buss Benevolent Association, Metropolitan Benevolent Association and Ninth Assembly District Democratic Association, Queens, and with Messrs. Hesse and Ruppel, was the prime mover in organizing the Linden Street Property Owners' Association for the purpose of paving Linden Street under private contract of the resident property owners, instead of by the City.



MR. JOSEPH A. FERRIS

**Joseph A. Ferris**

Joseph A. Ferris, carpenter contractor, was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1878, and came to Greater Ridgewood in 1908, contracting for the carpentering work of all of Stier's houses. Mr. Ferris has remained with Mr. Stier since the beginning, and in all has so far done the carpentering work on over seven hundred houses in the section, erected by Stier, in addition to the extensive separate operations of Bauer and Stier, commanding from sixty to as high as one hundred and ten men and with a pay roll exceeding \$2,000 a week.

Mr. Ferris has been married a second time, his second wife being Julia Kohler, whom he married in 1910, and has two children: Margaret, by his first wife, and Lawrence, by his second wife.

Mr. Ferris is a crack billiard player, owning a beautiful billiard table, which he has erected in the basement of his home and where he devotes almost all of his leisure hours.

**Fred Hesse**

Mr. Fred Hesse was born in Brooklyn and came to the Metropolitan section in 1903. He entered into partnership, doing contracting work, with George Berger, and under the firm name of Hesse and Berger paved many of the section's streets under private contract, among which were: Linden Street, Grove Street, Doscher Avenue, Zeidler Avenue and William Street. The partnership was dissolved in 1910, but Mr. Hesse is still in the contracting business and is now doing extensive work for the Bush Terminal Co.

He has a summer bungalow at Rockaway Point and is an enthusiast of motor boating and all water sports.

As stated in the biography of Mr. George Berger, Mr. Hesse assisted in initiating the paving of Linden Street under private contract.



MR. FRED HESSE

**John Holzhauser**

John Holzhauser, contractor, has been a resident of the Glendale section for the last fifty years. He was born on Sheffield Avenue, East New York, in 1851. His early life was spent on the farm. In 1882, Mr. Holzhauser married Rebecca Hohmeyer and the couple have the proud distinction of fourteen children, seven of which are living. He is distinctly a home-loving man, although he had the honor of being president of the Haymakers in 1906 and has always been a good Democratic worker in the party. He is passionately fond of animals and has always been interested in trotting horses.

**Barnard Joseph**

Mr. Barnard Joseph is one of the young men who are doing the quiet, unassuming work connected with the upbuilding of the section. He served as superintendent for August Bauer, the builder, for more than six years, superintending the erection of more than 250 buildings in Greater Ridgewood, and for



MR. BARNARD JOSEPH

the last two years has been connected with the Bauer and Stier building and realty corporation.

Mr. Joseph was born in Brooklyn March 7th, 1890, and came to Ridgewood in 1902.



HOLZHAUSER HOMESTEAD ON COOPER AVENUE

**Mr. John B. Moosbruker**

John B. Moosbruker, painting contractor, is a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and came to America in 1884. He married Annie Fuchs, of Brooklyn, in August, 1892, and by her has four children, Dorothy, Raymond, Minerva and Margaret.

Mr. Moosbruker is a member of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, Old New Yorkers' Benevolent Association, Schwaebischer Saengerbund, St. Joseph's Society, Bushwick Council, Hagenbacher Kranken Unt. Verein and Bayerischer Kranken Unt. Verein No. 2, and of a number of local singing societies.

He enjoys a large and prosperous business, due to his good work and the confidence that his customers place in his dealings with them. He is a stockholder of the Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Company.

**Charles Augustus Myers**

Charles Augustus Myers is not a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section, but his extensive contract work in our section and his liberal and ready support of every movement for the welfare of Greater Ridgewood entitles him to a place among us.

Mr. Myers was born in New York City in 1888 and is a son of the late ex-Assemblyman Myers, of the 15th Assembly District of New York. He has practically been in the contracting business all his life, starting in with Naughton & Co., the famous subway building company, and later serving with John McNamee, John J. Cream & Co., T. A. Gillespie & Co. and Wm. Bradley & Co., Subway contractors. Later Mr. Myers

started out on his own account and is now the largest individual contractor in both Kings and Queens Counties. It would be impossible to enumerate all the streets that he has paved in our section. Suffice it to say that he has paved most of the streets in the Greater Ridgewood section and has done a great many streets here under private contract. He is a hardworking and energetic young man, which is verified in the answer he gave when questioned as to his favorite hobby. Mr. Meyers answered "Hard work."

Mr. Myers is a director of the Flatbush Democratic Club; member of the Democratic County Committee of Brooklyn; life member of the Elks, Lodge No. 22, Brooklyn, and a member of the Queensboro Democratic Club.

**Fred Neuweiler**

Fred Neuweiler, as excavating contractor, has probably assisted in the development of more homes in our section than any other contractor in the same line of business. He is the oldest son of the Neuweiler family that came to our section about the year 1870 from Wantagh, about thirty miles out on Long Island, where the family had a farm. The father established a milk dairy on what is now North street.

Mr. Fred Neuweiler was born in the old Williamsburg section in 1860, and was married to Anna Reid in 1880. The union has been blessed with seven children, three sons and four daughters: Fred, Philip and John, Catherine, Anna, Mamie and Emma. Fred is the only son married. Anna is married to Barney Joseph, whose biography appears elsewhere.

Mr. Neuweiler's mother is still living and is eighty years of age.

**Charles Motekewecz**

Mr. Charles Motekewecz, contractor, was born in Austria in 1873. He has been a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section since 1898 and a contractor since 1891.

Mr. Motekewecz's career is interesting. He started in and contracted for twenty-six houses on Covert Avenue on the small capital of \$75. However, he made good and once his credit was established, business began to come to him. Another singular thing that Mr. Motekewecz makes mention of is that he has never had to solicit for business, the work coming to him simply through recommendation.

Mr. Motekewecz has kept his business modernized and up-to-date by introducing modern machinery, the latest being a concrete mixer, used for concrete foundations on asphalt streets, and this in turn has brought him bigger work. He has done the work for the G. X. Mathews Realty Co, and for other large builders in the section.

Mr. Motekewecz has three children: Joseph, Edward and Cecelia, of whom he is very proud.

**Michael Masen**

While Michael Masen is, perhaps, better known in Ridgewood as a contractor, he has a substantial claim to recognition also as one of its builders.

Mr. Masen was born in Prussia August 1st, 1868. He came here at the age of sixteen with his parents, brother and sister, and attended first the day and then evening schools while learning the trade of mason and bricklayer. He worked at his trade for several years. In 1897, he began to take on contracts and met with almost immediate success.

In the meantime he has from time to time built several (more than twenty-five) brick and stone houses on his own account on Troutman Street, Irving

Edsall and Forest Avenues, including his home at 369 Troutman Street.

In 1888, Mr. Masen married Margaret Schmidt, and in 1903, the year following her death, he married Barbara Klein. Mr. Masen has seven children: Mamie, Margaret, Mathew, John, Paul, Lillian and Nicholas.

The two oldest boys, Mathew and John, are associated with their father in his business, while Paul is studying architecture at Pratt's Institute.

Mr. Masen is an active member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, of Coopernicis Lodge No. 545, F. and A. M., and of Gus Weiser's Benevolent Association.

**Jacob Metzger**

Mr. Jacob Metzger is one of our old time real estate operators who has faired successfully in his business and whom we love to honor because he is peculiarly a type of citizen that we like to see among us; bound by no party lines and submitting to no dictation; progressive and in sympathy with any reform which promises broader justice and purer popular government.

Mr. Metzger was born in Brooklyn on November 30th, 1855, and lived in his home town all his life. In 1883, he married Eva Layer and their marriage has been blessed with two sons, both of whom are now married. He has lived in Ridgewood for twenty-four years and for just so many years and more has he been active in civic and social affairs. For thirty-three years, he was president of Washington Relief Circle; for almost as long a time, he has been connected with the Manhattan Relief Circle. He is also a member of Foresters of America and Ridgewood Board of Trade.

He is the father of Joseph Metzger, one of our sections' successful young lawyers, whose biography appears on another page.

### Mr. Henry Bockrath

Mr. Henry Bockrath developed a row of houses in our section at Van Cortland and Buchman Avenues and numerous scattered ones all over our community. The character of his work is of a very high calibre and is a model for builders to follow. He has never been connected with any other business and consequently has perfected himself along the building line. His perseverance is well proven by the fact that he was foreman with a prominent builder for eighteen years in succession, after which time he started in business for himself. Mr. Bockrath was born in Germany on April 22d, 1860, and has lived in Brooklyn twenty-five years. He was married to Margaret Geat in 1896 and has three children. He is a member of the Williamsburg Saengerbund, Arion Saengerbund, Royal Arcanum and other organizations.

### Fred Brugel

Fred Brugel, of Carey and Brugel, contractors, was born in New York City July 31st, 1882, but has been a resident of our section since 1887, com-

ing here with his parents when five years of age. He attended the old school at Cooper Avenue, No. 9, and later Wright's Business College.

In 1905, Mr. Brugel started out for himself in the contracting business, including cellar digging, trucking, etc., starting with two teams (having been previously foreman for Halleck), and very shortly established a successful business for himself. In 1907, Mr. Brugel entered partnership with Mr. Carey. Their success is well known.

Among their recent jobs was that connected with the foundation work of the Bushwick High School.

On July 31st, 1902, he married Louise Milhaven, a former school mate, and this happy union has been blessed with one child, Fred, nine years of age.

He is a member of the Evergreen Board of Trade, the Mortimer J. Miranda Democratic Association and the Contractor's Association of Brooklyn.

### John Carey (deceased)

John Carey, who died about two years ago, was one of the well-known old-time



STEAM SHOVEL OWNED BY CAREY AND BRUGEL

settlers of our section, coming here about thirty-five years ago and starting in the milk business in the vicinity of Highland Park.

About twenty-eight years ago, he moved to Cooper Avenue, where the family still resides.

There are nine grown children: John, who is a police officer in the 285th Precinct; Martha, Mamie (married to John Chestnut), Jennie (married to Thos. McCormick, Flatbush), Elizabeth (married to James Granahan), Sadie (deceased wife of Frank DeBragga), Loretta (married to Harry Martin), Margaret (married to Geo. Simmons), and Martin.

#### **Martin J. Carey**

Martin J. Carey, contractor, is a native of our section, having been born here on April 14th, 1890, and since one year of age, living in the old Carey Homestead on Cooper Avenue near Cypress Avenue, where he still lives. He attended the old school on Cooper Avenue and later Old No. 9.

Mr. Carey is in the contracting business with Fred Brugel, doing an extensive business in general trucking and cellar digging and street work for the City. The firm owns a steam shovel as a side line, which has proven quite a profitable investment.

Mr. Carey is a member of the Second Ward Democratic Club, the Mortimer J. Miranda Democratic Club and other organizations.

#### **Charles Farrenkopf**

Mr. Charles Farrenkopf is a self-made man, a man who started at the bottom and worked his way upward by dint of energy and the ability to take advantage of opportunity. In our section alone, he has built more than four hundred houses for the most prominent builders, such as Mr. Stier and Mr. Berger. In the city at large he has taken contracts for the

construction of at least four hundred buildings. He is now at work on the construction of buildings for Merik and May on Myrtle Avenue. When we realize that Mr. Farrenkopf is with us only eight years and then consider his share toward the development of our section, it is no wonder to us that Mr. Farrenkopf is classed with the most prominent and most public-spirited men of the community.

He was born in New York on June 12th, 1876, and brought up in his home town. In 1897, he was married to Miss Kate Arnheim, by whom he has two children: Margaret and Charles.

#### **John Kull**

John Kull, President of the Lyric Theatre, is a builder by vocation and as such has been connected with the building of a hundred houses in our section, at the same time maintaining a liquor business. Over in Germany, Mr. Kull was what is there termed a "Handwerksbursch."

Mr. Kull was born in Germany on February 18th, 1868, and came to America in 1887, in which year he married Katherine Drentet. Their marriage has been blessed with three girls and one boy. For twenty years, Mr. Kull has been a resident of our section and has always been in the front ranks in fighting for improvements.

#### **John Maurer**

The thing for which John Maurer will always be remembered is his philanthropic contributions to charitable organizations. He gives freely to all societies, organizations and homes which stand for the alleviation of human suffering.

Mr. Maurer is the proprietor of the well-known paint and oil establishment which bears his name. In ten years he has so worked up his trade that he now

does more than \$100,000 annual business all over the country. The bulk of his business centres in Long Island.

Many of the large breweries, public buildings, large halls, etc., bear "Maurer's paint."

Mr. Maurer was born in Brooklyn on April 3d, 1875, and has lived in Brooklyn all his life. In 1898, he was married to Elizabeth Trommer (related to the well-known Trommer of the Trommer Brewery), and their marriage has been blessed with two children: May and Elsie. Mr. Maurer is a member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, Manufacturers and Dealers League, Manufacturers and Jobbers Paint Association and numerous benevolent and political bodies.

#### Reilly and Macdonald

There are innumerable partnerships, but seldom one where the two members are so ideally in accord with one another, where each understands the other and where both work hard and apply them-



MR. JOHN MACDONALD

selves to the work in hand, as in the instance of Reilly and Macdonald, mason contractors. Such partnerships are ideal and few and far between.

Reilly and Macdonald employ on an average as high as fifty men and in some instances employment has been given to one hundred men in the busy season. Although the partnership was only entered into three years ago, over five hundred and fifty houses have been erected, including most of the operations of Paul Stier, Bauer and Stier, Ring-Gibson, Geo. Loeffler, Merchants-Lloyds Co., and other big Ridgewood operators.

Mr. John Macdonald, senior partner, was born in 1880 in Scotland, of American parents, his mother being a native of Brooklyn and his father of Newark; consequently Mr. Macdonald is an American citizen without the need of citizen's papers and with all the rights of such, although born on foreign soil. He was brought to this country when two years of age. As soon as he reached



MR. JAMES REILLY

the age where he was able to work, he was apprenticed as a mason and in his day has worked on some of the biggest business buildings in New York City, for such concerns as Mark Eidritz, Thompson and Starrett Co., etc.

In 1904, Mr. Macdonald married Francis Bundshuh. There are no children. Mr. Macdonald is a member of F. and A. M., Sylvian Grove Lodge No. 275, Ridgewood Democratic Club, and several local organizations.

Mr. James T. Reilly, junior partner, was born in Brooklyn in 1881 and has spent practically all his life there. After a long and thorough experience as a mason, he came to the Ridgewood section three years ago and entered into the partnership which has been so profitable and satisfactory to both.

In 1905, Mr. Reilly married Elizabeth Steinbrecker, by whom he has one child, James T., Jr., who is five years of age. Like Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Reilly is a member of the Sylvian Grove No. 275, F. and A. M., Ridgewood Democratic Club, and other local organizations, and his favorite pastime, outside of his family, is card playing.

#### James A. Caufield

There is no better evidence of the truth of the saying, "Reward crowns effort," than the remarkable success of James a Caufield, born in Manhattan November 17th, 1856.

He started as a poor boy, trusting fully in the belief that a successful career could be shaped on the sterling principle of a square deal for every one.

Though born in Brooklyn, Mr. Caufield has inherited from his father the peculiarly versatile temperament of the "Emerald Islander." It's the square and candid attitude, the jolly, good-hearted disposition and the unflinching perseverance.

On December 30th, 1883, Mr. Cau-



MR. JAMES A. CAUFIELD

field married Kate C. Monahan and their happy marriage has been blessed with four sons and one daughter.

During the later years of his operation, Mr. Caufield has been fortunate in receiving most valuable assistance from his two sons: James A., Jr., and Joseph F. Joseph F. Caufield, has been the acting superintendent and sole architect of the firm of J. A. Caufield.

In our section, Mr. Caufield's work has been chiefly connected with building up farms and lots. In the building line he has used nothing but the best material, believing it the cheapest in the end. The stretches of well-built houses on Weirfield Street, Cornelia Street, between Knickerbocker and Wyckoff Avenues and Hamburg Avenue, are part of the wonderful construction work.

Mr. Caufield is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Brooklyn Club, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Mechanics Bank. For ten years, he was Building Inspector in the City of Brooklyn.



MR. NICHOLAS HIMMELREICHER

**Himmelreicher, Stamm & Co.**

Himmelreicher, Stamm & Co. started in business in a small back room in February, 1900, beginning in the most modest way possible, as is usual with firms that have an humble beginning. Today, the name of this concern is known in every part of the city and some of their transactions have been among the biggest in the real estate business. The firm has taken a prominent part in the up-building of the Ridgewood section, both through their own building operations and through their influence in inducing people with money to invest in Ridgewood property, and many a person has since thanked both Mr. Himmelreicher and Mr. Stamm for their good advice in this direction. The firm's office is located at 1289 and 1291 Myrtle Avenue.

Mr. Himmelreicher was born in

Brooklyn September 26th, 1877, and married Margaret Fuertig June 15th, 1909.

Mr. H. C. Stamm was born in Brooklyn May 4th, 1878, and married Agatha J. Klingler June 30th, 1909. There is one child, Dorothy, eighteen months old.

The firm has erected a number of buildings on Tompkins Avenue, Glendale, Elm and Covert Avenues, Washington Avenue, Glendale, Greene and Myrtle Avenues.

**Wyckoff Farm**

The Wyckoff farm, which extended from Myrtle avenue to about Flushing avenue, was sold in parcels during various periods, the most recent sale being a parcel of land sold by his heirs in 1910 to the Bauer and Stier Co., extending from Linden st. to Myrtle ave. and from Cypress Avenue to St. Nicholas Avenue.



MR. H. C. STAMM

**Charles Pfitzenreuter**

Mr. Charles Pfitzenreuter, one of our successful real estate operators and builders, was at one time associated with the Ridgewood Times.

Mr. Pfitzenreuter was born in New York City in 1872 and is a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section for the past fourteen years. Previous to his association with the Ridgewood Times, Mr. Pfitzenreuter was superintendent at Blair's Paper Goods Manufacturing Company and later in business for himself.

In 1898, he married Margaret Eisman. There are no children.

With Mr. Meixner, Mr. Pfitzenreuter operated in the building line in Glendale and recently has been associated with the G. X. Mathews Realty and Construction Co.

He is now in the contracting business and is doing well.

He is a member of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, Glendale Taxpayers' Association, Ridgewood Democratic Club, Second Ward Democratic Club, Third Assembly District Democratic Association, Triangle Social Club, Glendale Benevolent Association and chairman of the St. James Park Improvement Association.

**Charles F. Hilt**

Charles F. Hilt has the distinction of having been the first licensed plumber in the Evergreen section for a number of years and the reputation that he established for first-class work brought him his success.

Mr. Hilt was born in Brooklyn in 1886 and has been a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section for the last eighteen years. He is a member of the Evergreen Board of Trade and Monroe Democratic Club, and enjoys considerable popularity in his section.

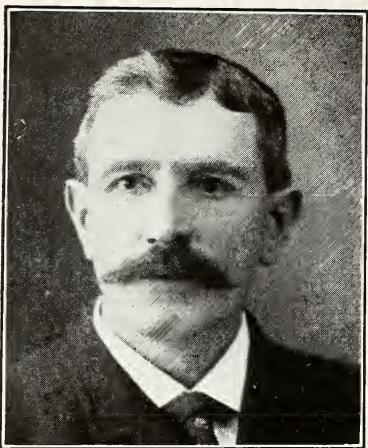


MR. JOZUE PERLA

**Jozue Perla**

Jozue Perla, although not a resident, is so much identified with the growth of the Ridgewood section, as well as a property owner, that his name deserves to be perpetuated in connection with our local history. Mr. Perla was born in Varsow, Poland, where he took up art studies, graduating from the Varsow Dickstien Institute. He speaks fluently six different languages. Mr. Perla came to America in 1901 and to Brooklyn in 1901. He established himself as an importer of diamonds and later took up the business of lighting appliances.

In 1891, he married Fannie Hertz, who has proved to be a devoted wife and an ideal mother. Their marriage has been blessed with five children, all of whom are engaged in study. He is a great lover of art, appreciating the works of others more than he creates himself. When he does draw, he is not utilitarian but altruistic in his motives. Mr. Perla has traveled widely and is well read in cosmopolitan classics in general and in the German and English classics in particular.



MR. CHARLES STREBEL

**Mr. Charles Strebel**

Mr. Strebel was born at Worms, am Rhein, July 26th, 1856, and came to America in 1887. He was for many years foreman with Adam Happel and other iron manufacturers, previous to starting his own business. On September 2d, 1881, he married Barbara Heinz, of Kettinheim, and by her has five children: Catherine, Henry, Philip, Anna and Charles.

Mr. Strebel is fond of bowling, singing, cards and cross-country walking, and is a member of Schiller Lodge No. 304, F. and A. M.; Morning Star Lodge, Order of Prosperity; Mayflower Lodge, Hessen Darmstedtar K. U. V., and Germania Maennerchor.

**Henry Strebel**

Henry Strebel, oldest son of the firm of Chas. Strebel and Sons, structural and ornamental iron manufacturers, was born in New York City in 1885, and came to Ridgewood with his parents when only two years of age.

After a common school education and a few years of employment in New York,

he joined his father at the time when his father established the present business which bears his name. This was in 1901. In 1906, he was admitted to membership in the firm and today the business is virtually under his leadership.

He possesses the energetic, forceful and hard-working qualities that distinguish our American young men in business life today.

In 1911, Mr. Strebel was married to Frances Knoblock, of Foxall street. He is a member of numerous fraternal, social, political and civic organizations in the section and is widely known.

**A. Schmitz**

A. Schmitz, the well-known leaded glass manufacturer and who has done most of the leaded glass work for the prominent builders in our section, was born in Cologne, Germany, in 1869, and came to America in 1882. He began work with John Morgan & Sons, one of the oldest leaded glass concerns in the city. From here he took a position with the well-known firm of Tiffany and Company, with whom he stayed for six years. He also associated himself with other lead glass concerns with the idea of getting experience in this line, and in 1907 came to Ridgewood and started in business for himself. His first establishment was at Harman street; then he took part of the place that was then occupied by R. Borsemann as a hay market, and when this building was leased to Nolte Brothers, he removed to 527 Palmetto Street, where he is now located.

The work that Mr. Schmitz does is of a high class character and of the greatest variety, including memorial windows, stained glass transoms, store fronts, sky-lights and work of similar description.

In 1897, Mr. Schmitz married Elsa Hohenstein, a Western girl. There are no children.



MR. GEORGE VIEBROCK

**George Viebrock**

One of the rising young business men in our section, who is establishing a large and lucrative contracting business is George Viebrock, plumbing contractor.

Mr. Viebrock was born in the Ridgewood section of Brooklyn in 1890, and has lived in and about the section all his life.

In 1910, he entered partnership with his uncle, Charles Viebrock, and since then has prospered materially, doing large contract work for builders such as Paul Stier, Jacob Raedler, Anthony Meyer, etc. He also did City work on the fire house at Richmond Hill.

Mr. Viebrock is a member of the Hep-tasophs, Merchants Lodge No. 709, F. and A. M.; Ridgewood Democratic Club, and of the Master Plumbers of Queens.

He is fond of automobiling and devotes his spare time to this pleasure.

**Charles Viebrock**

Twenty years in the plumbing business in our section is the record of Mr. Charles Viebrock, and this record carries with it a reputation for reliable work.

Mr. Viebrock was born in Osterstedt, Hanover Province, Germany, June 4th, 1875, and came to America in 1888.

On May 4th of the same year, he married Minnie Tietje and the union has been blessed with one daughter, Minnie, born April 8th, 1900.

Mr. Viebrock is an uncle of George Viebrock, and is associated with him in the plumbing contracting business. Previous to this partnership, Mr. Viebrock was associated for a number of years with George Schwarz in the same line of business.

He is a member of Schiller Lodge, 304, Germania Maennerchor and other organizations, and his greatest hobby is fishing.

**Bernard Koenen**

Mr. Bernard Koenen was born at Rhein Pr., Germany, in 1850, and came to America in 1881. He was originally a cabinet maker, but branched out into a business of his own, starting a hardware store at 1486 Myrtle Avenue in 1893, which has since become one of the largest hardware stores in our section.

Mr. Koenen is a member of B. L. L. A. and S. P., F. and A. M., and is fond of yachting and water sports. He has two daughters, Bertha and Anna, both born in Hamburg, Germany.

**Cypress Hills Plank Road**

Cypress Hills Plank Road, in the early days, was owned by a private corporation that maintained a toll gate at each end and charged a nominal fee of three to six cents for vehicles passing through.

**Joseph Weiss**

Mr. Joseph Weiss was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1874, and came to this country at the early age of six years. He was for many years draftsman for one of the largest ornamental iron works in the country. Later, he became interested in the manufacture of wire, bronze and iron articles and is making a remarkable success in this business in connection with the Long Island Iron Works, Inc., of which he is vice-president and secretary.

In 1900, Mr. Weiss married Agnes Neufeld, a daughter of a well-known family in the section, and by her there are five children: Joseph Peter, Marion A., Charles J., George Edward and Agnes M.

Mr. Weiss has always shown his spirit of good citizenship by his active interest in local politics and civics, and his greatest interest outside of his business is to be engaged in civic work.

He is a member of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, Hollis Improvement Association, Knights of Columbus, Montauk Council No. 203, C. B. L. No. 438, German Hospital, Brooklyn, Volunteer Firemen, Columbus Hose Co. No. 1, Hollis; member of St. Gerard's Choir, President of Wire Men's Manufacturers' Association, member of Catholic Club of Jamaica, member and Governor of Building Trades Employers' Association of New York, and other organizations.

**George J. Wagner**

George J. Wagner has the distinction of having done most of the electrical work on the big churches and buildings in our section. He was born in Brooklyn in 1882 and came into the Ridgewood section twenty years ago. The first big contract that Mr. Wagner undertook when he started in business or himself was the electrical work for

St. Aloysius Church and School, Onderdonk Avenue and Stockholm Street. This work at once established his reputation and he successfully secured other large contracts as St. Matthew's Parish House, St. Pancras Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, Ridgewood National Bank, Ridgewood Times and other prominent buildings. In 1907, he married Elizabeth Grutz and by her has two children: Helen and George C.

Mr. Wagner is now a resident of Jamaica, having bought a house and plot of ground, and is living a suburban life. He is greatly interested in poultry and is becoming quite a fancier, as well as establishing a side business in this line.

He is a member of St. Mary's Church in Jamaica; Secretary of the 19th Election District Democratic Club of Jamaica, and is also a member of other clubs and societies.

**William Werner**

William Werner, stone contractor, attained his business success by sheer hard work.

Those who remember Mr. Werner's early struggles for recognition and contract work, do not begrudge him the good and prosperous business that he now enjoys, and the young can take a good example in perseverance from his early efforts.

Mr. Werner was born in Goepplingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1877, and came to America in 1902. In 1907, he came to Greater Ridgewood and established the business, which was originally located at Cooper Avenue, Glendale, in close vicinity to Louis Hillen's Park.

In 1906, he married Johanna Dietel, and by her has three children: Pauline, Albert and Elizabeth.

He is a member of the Schwaebischer Kranken Unst. Verein No. 1, Glendale Haymakers and other organizations.



MR. FRANK WISSEL

**Mr. Frank Wissel**

Mr. Frank Wissel, popularly known as Andrew Wissel's son, is not only known in Ridgewood, but throughout entire Brooklyn and Queens through his business of Contracting and Cess Pool Cleaning. Mr. Wissel has the largest two, three and four horse cess pool tanks in the world. He is a lover of animals and is commonly called the "animal's friend." Mr. Wissel's family is an old family in the section and his creditable and energetic business ability has helped to keep his name a prominent one throughout the two boroughs.

Mr. Wissel was born in Brooklyn March 1st, 1878. In April, he married Ida Rohner, by whom he has four sons: Frank, Edmund, Charles and Wilbur. He is a member of the Evergreen Board of Trade and Vice-President of the 29th Election District Democratic Club.

**Oscar L. Schwarz**

Mr. Oscar L. Schwarz, the well-known contracting plumber, Myrtle and St. Nicholas Avenues, although a comparatively young man, has made a wonderful success since starting three years ago.

Previous to this Mr. Schwarz was in business at 429 Cornelia Street, in partnership with Charles Viebrock.

By his strict attention to business and reliability, he has gradually secured some of the biggest contracts for the bigger building operations in the section, and has attained a splendid business standing.

Mr. Schwarz did the contract work in the Ridgewood Times Building and for Paul Stier, Bauer and Stier, etc.

In 1898, he was married to Augusta Tietje, and the union has been blessed by two children: Oscar, 14, and Herbert, four years of age.

**Fred H. Meyer**

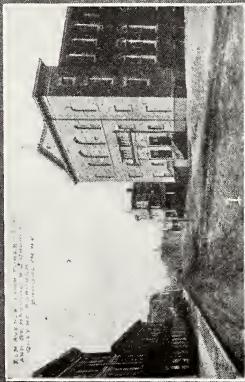
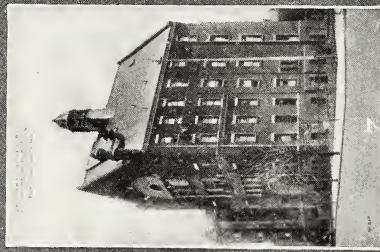
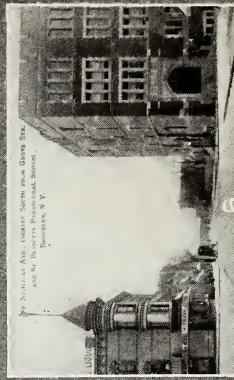
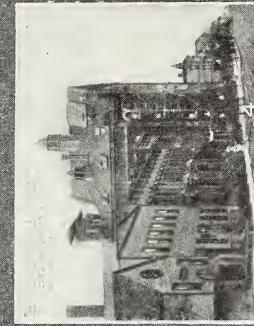
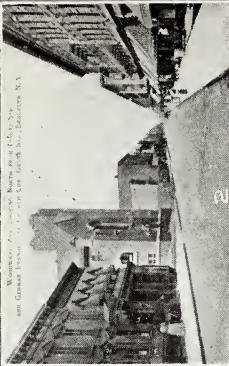
Fred H. Meyer, cement contractor, is well known in our section, both through his father, Henry J. Meyer, who was one of the early cement contractors of our section, and through his own prestige, which he has established for himself during the many years among us.

Mr. Meyer was born in Manhattan in 1874 and came with his parents to the old Williamsburg section, where the parents lived some time prior to coming to our section. He has been a resident of the Brooklyn section since 1889.

In December, 1889, he married Elizabeth Maser, by whom there are two children, Amelia and Augusta.

Since 1909, Mr. Meyer has been living in the Queens section of Ridgewood.

Mr. Meyer learned the cement business thoroughly under his father and has done contract work for some of the biggest builders in the Greater Ridgewood section, such as August Bauer, Christian Donecke, Jacob Blank, etc.



1—Elm Avenue, from Forest Avenue, and St. Matthias R. C. Church.  
2—Woodward Avenue, looking North from Linden Street, and  
German Evangelical Church.

3—Onderdonk Avenue, near Stanhope Street, and St. Aloysius R.  
C. Church.  
4—St. Nicholas Avenue, looking North from Himrod Street, and

Holy Cross Episcopal Church and German Hospital, corner  
Stanhope Street.  
5—Onderdonk Avenue, looking North from Linden Street, and  
German Evangelical Church.

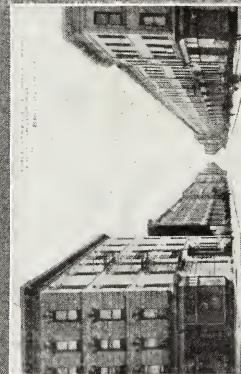
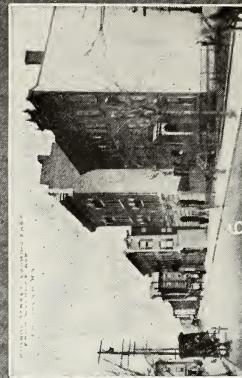
6—St. Nicholas Avenue, looking South from Grove Street, and St.  
Brigid's Parochial School.  
7—German Hospital, St. Nicholas Avenue and Stockholm Street.

**PART VII**

**PROMINENT CITIZENS AND BUSINESS MEN**

1—Harman Street, looking East from Wyckoff Avenue.  
2—Greene Avenue, looking East from Wyckoff Avenue.  
3—Bleeker Street, looking East from Wyckoff Avenue.  
4—Ralph Street, looking East from Wyckoff Avenue.

5—Grove Street, looking East from Wyckoff Avenue.  
6—Himrod Street, looking East from Wyckoff Avenue.  
7—Interior View of Bushwick Park, taken from corner Suydam  
Street and Irving Avenue.  
8—Hart Street, looking West from Irving Avenue.



## CHAPTER X

### PROMINENT CITIZENS AND BUSINESS MEN



MR. CARL AICHMANN

#### Carl Aichmann

Although a resident of Elmhurst at the present time, Mr. Aichmann was identified with our section for over thirteen years and his interests are still with us to a very large extent.

Mr. Aichmann was born in Nuernberg, Wuertemberg, Germany, in 1852, and came to this country in 1872.

Although Mr. Aichmann's business is that of a cigar manufacturer, he took up building operations, with considerable success, building his first three-story building at 295 Wyckoff Avenue, and later, with John Dreher, building up the entire block on Grove Street between Irving and Wyckoff Avenues.

However, Mr. Aichmann's chief claim to honor lies in the high distinction he has attained in our local German clubs and singing societies. He was honorary president of the Schwaebischer Saengerbund, a member of the Board of Trustees, German Hospital; Board of Directors, Hamburg Savings Bank; Board of

Directors, Citizens Trust Company, etc.

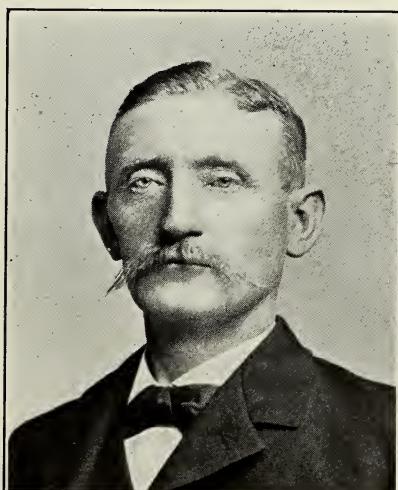
Mr. Aichmann has withdrawn from a great many of the social activities with which he was formerly connected. In 1898, he married Barbara Fcrstermann. There are two children by a former marriage: August and Augusta Martha.

#### John Bischoff

When John Bischoff came to America from Hanover, Germany, in 1871, he invested in land in the neighborhood of 81st Street and First Avenue, New York, connecting this with a large market garden from which he supplied the markets of the great city for over thirteen years.

When business and manufacturing began to encroach upon this territory, Mr. Bischoff, like all others, came to the Ridgewood section.

Mr. Bischoff invested in a portion of the Wyckoff farm on Cypress Avenue, where, until four years ago, he lived with



MR. JOHN BISCHOFF

his wife and family in the old homestead, which was razed in 1911 to make way for the large apartment houses which have since been built on this section.

John Bischoff was known as one of the largest market gardeners in this locality, whose produce found a ready market in New York and Brooklyn.

Mr. Bischoff now resides at 1603 Hancock Street, where his time is spent in looking after his various properties.

#### **John W. H. Barteld**

A strenuous fighter in matters of improvement, Mr. Barteld has gained considerable distinction in bringing to a successful issue hot contests where better transit facilities were involved.

Mr. Barteld and benevolent associations are as one; for Mr. Barteld has been connected with the organization of the John Kluge Benevolent Society and the Wm. Buss, Jr., Benevolent Association, and is at present identified as officeholder with many of the most prominent benevolent societies in the section.

He was born in New York on December 16th, 1864, and married Miss Katherine Schellheimer in 1886, by whom he has three daughters. He has been a resident in Greater Ridgewood for eight years and has always been prominently connected with matters pertaining to the growth and development of our section.

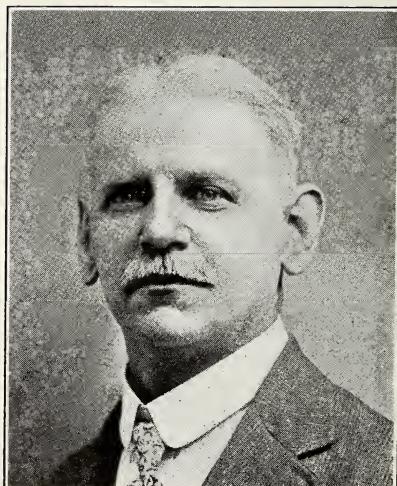
#### **Adolph Charles Bomhard**

Mr. Adolph Bomhard, son-in-law of the popular inventor, Adolph Merkt, is one of our few distinguished artists. He

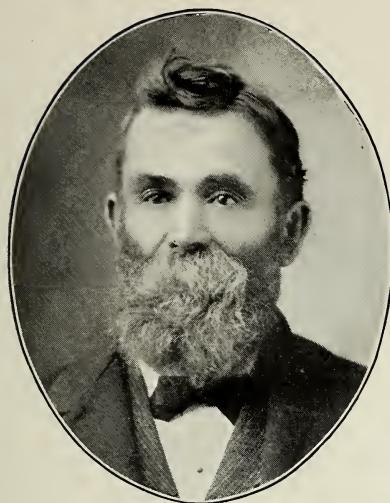
was student of art for a considerable time under Hugo Fischer, father of the famous Harrison Fischer.

Mr. Bomhard was born in Williamsburg on December 12th, 1859. He made a voyage to Prussia in his youth, returning soon to attend Public School No. 18, and finishing his education at Fuerst's Institute, College Point. Portrait painting is his specialty, although he has furnished considerable landscape work for theatrical productions in our section and the Williamsburg section. In portrait painting, Mr. Bomhard has evinced a true artistic spirit and that it is appreciated by his many friends accounts for his success in that direction.

Mr. Bomhard is honorary member of Williamsburg Saengerbund, of which he was a member as early as 1883, and its president in 1901-2; also member of Schwaebischer Saengerbund since 1903, and second vice-president in 1911. In 1904, he married Eugene Flora Merkt, by whom he has two children: Alice Eugene and Theela Augusta.



MR. ADOLPH C. BOMHARD



MR. EDWARD CHRISTIAN

### Edward Christian

An interesting career well worth chronicling is that of Edward Christian, who was born on the Isle of Mann, Great Britain, in 1829, and came to this country in 1853. His parents belonged to the orthodox, being duly baptised. At the age of seventeen, Mr. Christian went to apprentice to shipbuilding for seven years. At the end of his term, his employer gave him a reward of merit.

Mr. Christian plied his trade as shipbuilder in the Navy and merchant navy until twenty years ago, two years of which were during the great Civil War. He assisted in the launching of the ill-fated "Maine" and had a varied experience while serving under the Government.

He gave up shipbuilding and took up farming. In 1856, he bought up some lots in Weirfield Street (formerly Willow Street), built on it and sold the property. He moved to Glendale twenty-three years ago and bought his present place

at 49 Webster Avenue from Joseph Tompkins.

Mr. Christian is interested in horses, cattle, reading and travel, which he has done extensively both in Europe and in this country, and has been very active in Sunday School and church work. He assisted in the organizing of the Wyckoff Baptist Church and the establishing of the Dutch Reformed Church of Evergreen in 1891.

Mr. Christian is much against drinking to excess and tobacco, and he ascribes his retentive memory and hale old age to the fact that he has been a total abstainer from these two pernicious habits.

Mr. Christian is a lover of children, believing that a child well born and properly reared is a source of pride and credit to the parents responsible for its upbringing.

### Fresh Pond Road

Kill's Path, or the "Highway to the Hills," now known as old Fresh Pond Road, is a disused Indian trail, which was found covered with oyster and clam shells which the natives left there, after they feasted on the fish, in their journey from the Bay to Maspeth. It is our oldest historic road, serving as a dividing line between the Long Island or Shinnecock Indians and the Manhattan Savages, and it received its name of Kill's Path, because of the thousands of Indians who were gruesomely slain in the frequent battles and skirmishes that took place between these two hostile tribes.

### Early Day Squatters

In the very early days, squatters from New York settled in our section, chiefly on the Denton farm and up to the Jamaica woods. Hundreds of them lived in these woods.



MR. CHARLES DECKELMANN  
(Deceased)

#### **Charles Deckelmann**

Charles Deckelmann, deceased, who was widely known in connection with Ridgewood Park and Colosseum picnic grounds, was born in Obernburg, Bavaria, Germany, in 1845, and died February 19th, 1901.

Mr. Deckelmann came to Greater Ridgewood and bought the two parks from J. George Grauer in August, 1887, at a purchase price of \$56,000. In addition to this, in 1892, he purchased an immense tract of ground in the Glendale section and established Glendale Schuetzen Park, which he conducted for about two years, later leasing the same to Barney Koenig. In 1895, he disposed of the two Ridgewood parks and took over Palm Garden, which he conducted until he died in 1901.

Mr. Deckelmann married Margaret Kurz in 1871 and by her had two sons and two daughters: Louise (wife of Dr. Hettesheimer); Charles, at present con-

nected in a legal capacity with the Travelers' Accident Insurance Co. of Hartford; Fred W., also connected with the same firm and Amelia, wife of George Schubel, President and founder of the Ridgewood Times.

#### **George Durst**

George Durst, deceased, was widely known in his day throughout the entire section, his pleasing personality and his sociability making him friends wherever he went. He was born in Weisenheim, Germany, in 1861, and came to New York in 1881. Six years later he came to Ridgewood, serving as Superintendent of Deckelmann's two parks until he established a business of his own. In 1891, Mr. Durst took up a position as collector and general outside man for the firm of Welz and Zerweck, making himself invaluable to the firm, and this position he retained until his death in 1904.

Mr. Durst married Miss A. Deckelmann, sister of Charles Deckelmann, in 1885, who is still living in Foxall Street.



MR. GEORGE DURST



MR. GOTTLIEB DOCHTERMAN

**Gottleib Dochterman**

Mr. Gottlieb Dochterman is one of the few men in Ridgewood who fared, through innumerable difficulties, with unflinching courage and finally emerged victor. He was born and reared on a German farm and learning a trade at an early age, he journeyed through Switzerland, Italy and Germany as "Handwerksbursch," working his way all the time. When he came to this country, he had courage in his heart and nothing in his pocket. Working as a blacksmith, he pushed his way upward until he reached his present comfortable state. He is now a successful grocery merchant and a property owner.

He was born on September 12th, 1856, in Germany. In October, 1880, he married Mary Gruener, and their union has been blessed by three children: Charles, Henry and Anna. He is a member of the Bushwick Christ Church, New York Schutzen Bund and German Krieger Bund of Long Island.

**Theodore C. Eppig**

Theodore C. Eppig was born February 11th, 1877, on George Street near Evergreen Avenue. He received his early education at St. Leonard's Parochial School, and from here went to St. John's School and Packard Business Institute. His ambition had been directed toward the study of law, and just as he was about to take his bar examinations, the death of his brother occurred, necessitating the abandonment of this idea and causing him to take his brother's place as manager of the brewery. He was appointed and served as school commissioner under Mayor McClellan and has the distinction of having been a delegate to all the Democratic and National and State Conventions for the last eight years. He was honored at the Baltimore Convention last year by being appointed vice-president of the Democratic National Committee for the State of New York.

Mr. Eppig is trustee of St. Barbara's Church, the Leo Haus (German Catholic



MR. THEODORE EPPIG

Emigrant Society) and a member of St. Joseph's and other religious societies. He is also trustee of the Hamburg Savings Bank and was vice-president of the Ridgewood Bank. Mr. Eppig is also treasurer of the Union Brewers' Association, a member of Board of Arbitration of Lager Beer Brewers' Association of New York and Vicinity, Twenty-eighth Ward Taxpayers' Association, Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association, Allied Boards of Trade, Elks, Foresters of America, Court Lawton.

On November 24th, 1904, he married Margaret Mundelein, sister of the Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, by whom he has six children: Joseph, George, Theodore, Jr., Arthur, Rita and Robert.

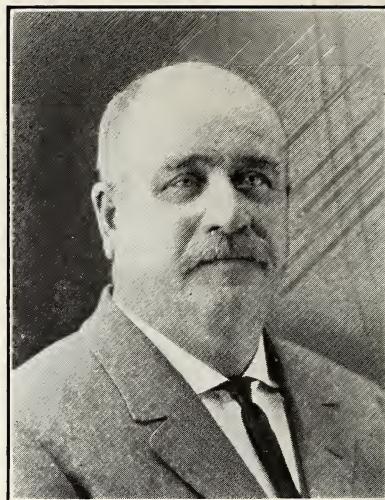
His favorite recreation is hunting big game and he has quite a large collection of fine specimens as evidence of his prowess as a hunter.

#### **Joseph Eppig**

Joseph Eppig, the founder, is perhaps best known in Brooklyn by his loyalty to and interest in church work. He was one of the organizers of St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church, named after his sister, giving as a free gift the lot on Bleeker Street on which the first church was erected.

Since his death on September 29th, 1907, Theodore C. Eppig was made manager of the brewery as well as of the estate. Joseph Eppig is survived by his widow, Katharine Eppig, who is executrix and trustee of the estate; Theodore C., already mentioned; John, superintendent of the brewery; Mary, wife of Henry J. Weiman, cashier of the brewery; Catherine, wife of John H. Haggerty; Barbara and Anna.

Death took away two other sons: Peter, the oldest, who at the time of death, October 8th, 1898, was manager of the brewery, and Joseph, who up to the time of his death, March 3d, 1900, was superintendent of the brewery.



MR. JAMES FARNAN

#### **James Farnan**

Mr. James Farnan is one of our few representatives from the "Emerald Isle." He was born in Meath, Ireland, on August 21, 1852. In 1874, he married Katherine Glinn, and their marriage has been blessed with four children. For seven years, Mr. Farnan has been a resident of Middle Village, where he was engaged in the hotel business. For twenty years, Mr. Farnan carried on successfully his liquor business and he is now retired.

Mr. Farnan is a great lover of all wholesome outdoor exercise, having served as life saver for several years. Mr. Farnan's son enjoys the distinction of champion rower of the United States, having carried off trophies in competition on several occasions.

Mr. Farnan is President of A. O. H., ex-Vice-President of Metropolitan Board of Trade, member of Washington Council, K. of Col., Henry Gualton Club, Seymore Club, 14th Assembly District Club, Second Ward Democratic Club of Queens, and many others.



MR. W. H. FRANK

When Mr. W. H. Frank, president of the Frank Brewery, one of our largest industries in the section, left his trade of engraver and associated himself with the brewing industry, he upset the old, generally accepted idea that a man can only make a success of that for which he was trained and which he has mastered. It is only of very late years that we are beginning to learn that any trade or business, mercantile or manufacturing, is fundamentally an engineering proposition, not, of course, technically so, but along the lines of the broader application of engineering principles, being applied to business administration; to standards in production; to the elimination of wasteful curves in manufacturing and in handling a given product as well as in delivery; the elimination of inadequate equipment and finally the directivity of the operating costs; all these are fundamental problems in every business, and

if Mr. Frank had been placed at the head of a private water company instead of a brewery, we Germans might not have liked it so much; but, nevertheless, he would have been just as successful in working it up into a big enterprise such as the Frank Brewery has become, and this fact, which is demonstrated in the business career of Mr. Frank, should be an inspiration to those young men who sometimes would like to make a change, but fear taking up something outside their line of previous endeavor.

Mr. Frank started his business career as an engraver in 1867 at the corner of Broadway and Fulton Street, New York City, at the modest salary of \$1.00 per week, a sum which the average boy of today would probably not be willing to accept; yet, it is a fact that many of our most successful men were satisfied with the humblest beginnings, feeling confident, even as boys, that they could "make good," if given a chance. Mr. Frank continued his study of the art of engraving and in 1870 went to Germany. He served his apprenticeship in both Stuttgart and Leipzig, being associated with Eduard Halhberger, publisher of "*Ueber Land und Meer*" for a year and a half, and also with J. J. Weber, publisher of the famous "*Leipziger Illustrierte Zeitung*." He returned to New York in 1872 and became associated with the engraving and art department of the Frank Leslie newspapers and magazines, staying with the Leslie concern for a period extending over seventeen years.

But all this while Mr. Frank was coming into contact with friends and others identified with the brewery business. He finally severed his connections with the Leslie concern and associated himself with the industry that now bears his name.

Mr. Frank was born in Brooklyn, November 11th, 1852, and was married to Mary C. Friedman in February, 1885.

They have four children: a son, William H., Jr., who has just graduated from the law school of the University of Syracuse with high honors, and three daughters: Henrietta L., Mildred B., and Marie C.

Although Mr. Frank is disinclined to let his charitable deeds become advertised, yet it is known that he does a great deal in a quiet way for churches and charitable institutions. He is passionately fond of horses and driving, and to a large extent makes this his pleasure and hobby. At the same time, like many others, he has drifted into the fascinating pleasure of automobileing.

Mr. Frank is a director of the Ridgewood National Bank and the Prudential Savings Bank. He has withdrawn almost entirely from the many social and fraternal organizations with which he was at one time identified, but he is still a passive member of the Arion Singing Society and a member of the Long Island Automobile Club.

#### **Philip Geyer, Sr.**

The great energy, shrewdness, capacity for business detail and wonderful ability Philip Geyer, Sr., possessed and applied to the Frank Brewing Company in its early days, was the impetus that, coupled with Mr. Frank's own genius, made the brewery the great enterprise that it is today.

Coming to the Evergreen section of Greater Ridgewood in March, 1893, when the then W. H. Frank Brewing Company was a small concern, Mr. Geyer invested largely and took an active part in the incorporation and changes which took place. Every waking moment from that time on until his death in 1905 was one of devotion.

Besides being an exceedingly able business man, Mr. Geyer was a Master Brewer.

Before coming to Evergreen, he had been the Brew Master of the Eberling



MR. PHILIP GEYER, Sr.

Brewery in New York and later joined with his brothers in establishing a brewery in Newark, N. J.

Coming to New York from Bavaria in 1870, Mr. Geyer married Miss Katherine Seissler, February, 1872.

Seventeen years ago he moved with his wife and five children to Evergreen, where he purchased extensive property on Willow street, building the homestead which stands today and where his widow with two daughters still reside.

#### **Philip Geyer**

Of the younger group of Greater Ridgewood's successful business men, perhaps none has had such a phenomenally rapid rise as Philp Geyer.

Graduated from the Manual Training High School in 1895, at the age of sixteen, he is today vice-president, Master Brewer and Superintendent of the Frank Brewing Company.

On leaving school, he decided to adopt his father's profession of Master Brewer and, believing that success in all things comes by beginning at the bottom of the

ladder, he entered the employ of the Wm. H. Frank Brewing Co.—as the Frank Brewing Co. was at that time known—as an apprentice, and here he received his practical training in all branches of the business, becoming a journeyman brewer in 1897.

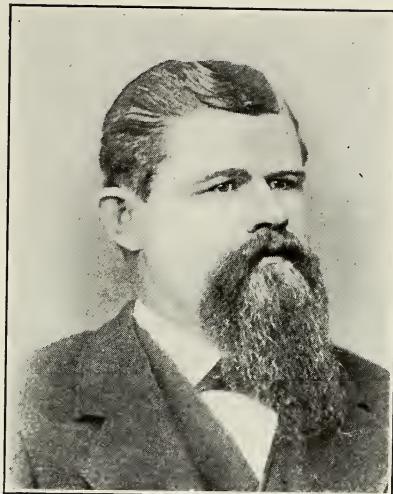
In order that he might gain a theoretical knowledge he entered upon a course of study in brewing, malting and the examination of brewing materials at the United States Brewers Academy in New York, whence he was graduated January 31, 1899, with the degree of Master Brewer.

Returning to the Frank Brewery, young Philip became assistant Master Brewer to his father, who was at that time Secretary, as well as Master Brewer of the concern, and continued in this capacity until the time of the latter's death in 1905, when he assumed his fathers' duties as Brew Master and later became Vice-President and Superintendent, holding today these important positions.

Mr. Geyer is a native of Rahway, N. J.; attended school in Newark, N. J., and in 1891 came to Brooklyn and graduated from Public School No. 35 and Manual High in 1895.

In 1902, he married Miss Sophia Washmeran of Newark, N. J., and is the proud father of Philip Geyer, 3rd, aged nine (9) and Katherine, six (6) years old.

Among the organizations of which he is a member may be mentioned: Master Brewers' Association of New York and Vicinity, Alumni Association of the U. S. Brewers' Academy, American Society of Brewing Technology, Corner Stone Lodge No. 367, Free and Accepted Masons; Brooklyn Council, Royal and Like Masters; Arisirt Chapter No. 135, Royal Arch Masons; Clinton Commandery No. 14, Knights Templar; Kismet Temple of Brooklyn, A. A. O. U. M. R.; Brooklyn Lodge No. 22, B. P. O. E.



MR. J. GEORGE GRAUER

#### J. George Grauer

Mr. J. George Grauer, founder of Grauer's Ridgewood Park Brewery, was born at Kustendinger, Wurtemberg, Germany, and came to America, landing in New York in 1865. From there he came to Brooklyn and established a cafe which he sold later to associate himself with the Welz and Zerweck brewery. Some time later Mr. Grauer, in connection with Wittman and Zerweck, established Ridgewood Park, leasing the ground as described separately in another part of this book. For three years this partnership continued, when Mr. Grauer took over the park alone.

In 1892, Mr. Grauer established the Ridgewood Park Brewery at Willow Street and Cypress Avenue, and several years later he started an ice plant.

In 1865, Mr. Grauer married Christina Haug. There were four children: August, George, Anna and Henry.

On February 28th, 1908, Mr. Grauer died in his Cornelia Street home. Mrs. Grauer died February 25th, 1913.

### **August Gutikunst**

When the great fight for the removal of the ash-dumping nuisance on Ridgewood Avenue became an imperative demand on the part of neighboring property owners and the Ridgewood Taxpayers' Organization, August Gutikunst was one of the most prominent agitators in securing the abatement of this nuisance. As member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, his interest in improvements and his activities won for him many friends.

By trade, Mr. Gutikunst is a machinist, and his faithfulness is shown in the fact that he has been in the employ of one firm for twenty years. Mr. Gutikunst started at the age of sixteen with the firm of Wessel, Mann Co., and has remained with this concern for the time above mentioned.

Mr. Gutikunst was born in Manhattan January 1st, 1877, and has been a resident of our section for the last fifteen years. He is fond of reading and spends most of his evenings in this form of intellectual recreation.

### **Meyerrose Farm**

The Meyerrose farm, which included the four blocks between Onderdonk, Woodward and Elm avenues on the south, and Woodbine street on the north, and four blocks west of Onderdonk avenue adjoining the old Ring farm, was sold to the Mathews Realty Construction Co. in 1910, and elegant rows of six-family brick residential houses now stand on this farm.



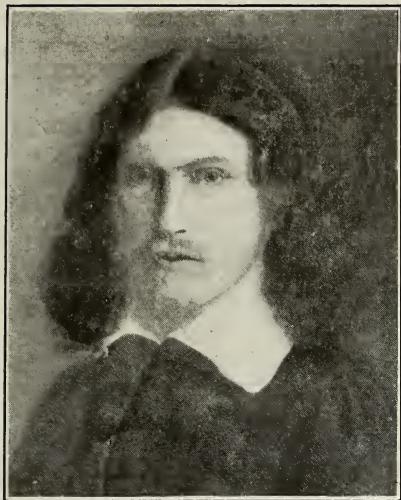
MR. MICHAEL GRIESMANN

### **Michael Griesmann**

Twelve years ago, Michael Griesmann joined the forces of the Frank Brewing Company as assistant in the mash room; three years later he was promoted to the kettle room, which position he still holds. Through all these years there has been none more faithful and energetic in their work, always having the interest of his employers at heart, and his faithful fidelity to his concern can well be emulated by our younger men.

Born in Brunsberg, Germany, February 25th, 1869, he came to this country at the age of twenty-four and married Marie Albert of New York, November 9th, 1893. Of the six children that blessed the union, but two are living: Agnes, sixteen, and George, thirteen years of age.

One finds the name of Michael Griesmann enrolled on the membership list of the Brewers' Union No. 69; also on that of the Workingman's Benefit Association and Ridgewood Board of Trade.



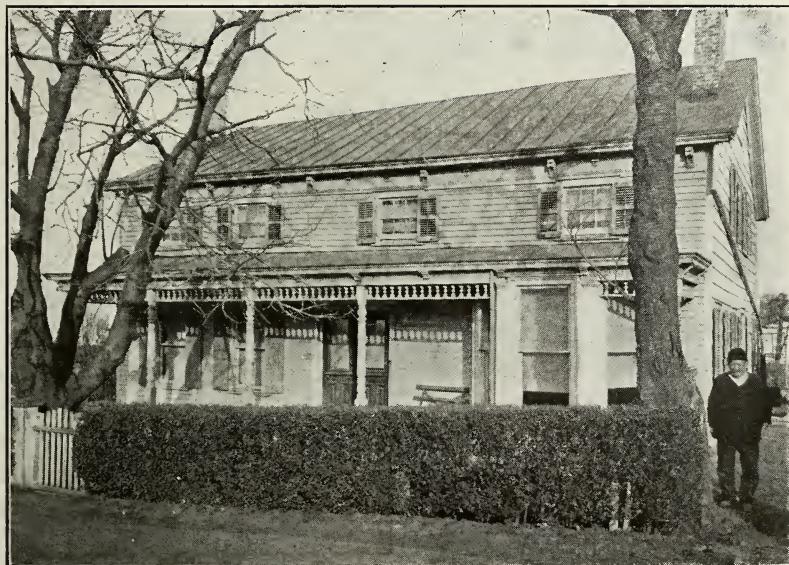
MR. JOHN ADAM HEUSS, Sr.

**John Adam Heuss, Sr.**

Intimately interwoven with the early days of our section is the Heuss family,

the head of which is John Adam Heuss.

Mr. Heuss was born in the small town of Goeppinger, Wurtemberg, Germany, December 7th, 1837, of distinguished parents. His father was educated as a civil engineer and later entered official life, serving with distinction as burgomaster. Like many young men of liberal education of that day, he sided in and sympathized with the German Rebellion of '48. For this act, on behalf of liberty, he was punished by having his property confiscated. He became an exile, and with his wife and seven children, of whom John Adam was the oldest, he migrated to America, landing in New York in 1848, and shortly afterwards coming to the Evergreen section. He held the distinction of surveying and laying out Lutheran Cemetery as a burial ground and of burying the first body there. He was also the first superintendent, a position which he held for many years.



OLD KOLYER HOMESTEAD ON FRESH POND ROAD  
Now known as the Old Heuss Homestead



MR. JOHN ADAM HEUSS, JR.

**John Adam Heuss, Jr.**

John Adam, the oldest son, was thirteen years of age when the family came to the Evergreen section. His reminiscences of our section in those days is replete with interesting anecdotes and references well worth listening to.

Mr. Heuss joined the army of California gold seekers in the exciting period of 1858, undergoing adventures and experiences that would furnish good material for a book, and when the great Civil War opened, he enlisted with the Siegel Rifles, California National Guard; then the Col. Ringgold Cavalry, Ringgold being also a townsman of his in Germany, and for his patriotism also came to America to escape punishment. He also served with distinction on Governor Tilden's staff. By trade he was a monumental sculptor and for many years was connected with the Raedler Monumental Works. For twenty-five

years, he was a member of Schiller Lodge, F. and A. M.; twenty-three years, member of I. O. O. F.; organizer of E. M. B. S., Evergreen Manner. B. S.

In 1867, he married Elizabeth Brunjes, daughter of a well-known family, and the union has been blessed with seven children: Charles, John, Philip, Fred, Benjamin, Elizabeth (wife of James Deehan, civil engineer, Richmond Hill,) and Lillian, who is still at home.

About 1872, Mr. Heuss bought the old Kolyer homestead on Fresh Pond Road, now best known as the old Heuss homestead, and here Philip Sheridan Heuss was born.

**Philip Sheridan Heuss**

Philip Sheridan Heuss, superintendent of Mount Nebo Cemetery, was born October 25th, 1871, and the patriotism of his father found expression in giving his son the name of a brave general that his father had always admired.

Young Heuss attended the old Union Free School and when he became of age,



MR. PHILIP SHERIDAN HEUSS

took up landscape gardening and horticulture as a business. He has been connected with the Mount Nebo Cemetery since 1906 and has always been well known for his active interest in the civic and political affairs of the section.

In 1897, Mr. Heuss married Edna Cooper, granddaughter of one of the oldest families in the section. There are no children. The couple occupy the old Cooper mansion on Cypress Avenue, together with an aunt, Sarah Cooper Goeway.

Mr. Heuss is one of the organizers and the president of the Ridgewood East Property Owners' Association and a member of Newtown Exempt Firemen's Association, Jr. O. U. A. M., I. O. O. F. and F. and A. M.

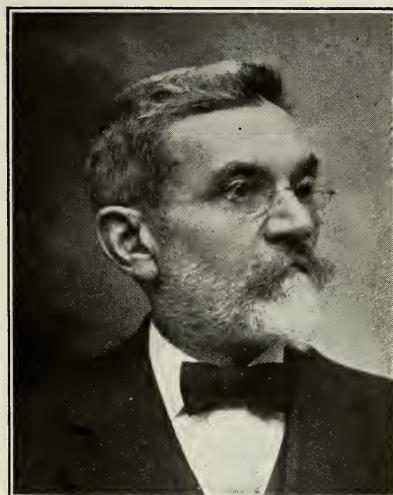
#### **Adolph Lehman**

There are few Socialists who are as sincere in the fundamental doctrines of Socialism as Mr. Adolph Lehman, and since he came to America in 1881, he has always been a foe to all forms of injustice and a fervent sympathizer with those who are oppressed, and as a member of the Socialist party, has endeavored to further his ideals and its principles amongst his relatives and friends.

Mr. Lehman was born in Baden, Germany, on June 12th, 1855, and has been a resident of our section for eighteen years. He married Sophie Diethelm on May 21st, 1879, and has an only daughter, Sophie; two others having died in youth.

As machinist, he worked diligently since his advent to this country, and his efforts have been amply rewarded, for he is now retired and living comfortably in his own home at 1616 Hancock street.

Mr. Lehman is of studious, ambitious



MR. ADOLPH LEHMAN

inclinations. He remarks that he resorts to everything that is edifying, be it lectures, the drama, books or musical performances. He has lately been able to give vent to his passion for travel by a trip through Italy, Switzerland and his Fatherland.

Though he observes that the average German is more sociable, studious and ambitious than the "typical American sport," he still concedes, however, reluctantly, that the democratic spirit prevailing on this side is more hopeful and prophetic of the realization of the ideal Social state that his party seeks to bring about than in European countries.

#### **Town of Newtown**

The original town of Newtown comprised 16,800 acres.

Newtown, of which the Queens section of Ridgewood was a part, held the most valuable peat bogs on Long Island. Newtown was also far famed for its truck farming.



MR. ADOLPH MERKT

**Adolph Merkt**

Among the very few inventors in Ridgewood, Mr. Adolph Merkt stands out prominently. In addition to several patents which he secured on a few of his inventions, he was the first one to demonstrate the modern moving picture machine in Brooklyn. Another important patent which he secured on a stereopticon view machine brought lucrative returns to him. In the early part of his career, he was an ivory turner, but later he merged into the calcium light business, where he fared successfully. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, on June 17th, 1847. Coming to this country in 1872, he married Thekla Zill in 1874. There are six children, three girls and three boys, five of whom are grown up. He is one of the charter members of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association and one of the first residents of Ridgewood, living here eighteen years.

**Oswald Leopold Merkt**

Mr. Oswald Merkt's life reads like an interesting novel. When he was but a

youngster, he devised a submarine boat which, in addition to creating an interest in naval circles, brought home a complimentary letter from the Secretary of Navy, Hillary A. Herbert.

Mr. Merkt was born in New York City on August 26th, 1878, and received his education in Brooklyn, being graduated from the Manual Training High School in 1897. He worked his way through Cooper Union, studying Engineering in the evening. He worked successively for Robert Hoe & Co. as machinist apprentice and draftsman and for the New York Edison Co. as engineer in the construction of their "Waterside Station." Under C. H. Bradley & Co., of Pitt., he worked as contracting engineer in the construction of the first electric plant for electrically pumping oil from the petroleum fields. As resident engineer he worked for the Chaparra Sugar Co., Cuba.

He is now engineer in charge of Engine Terminal Improvement on Central R.R. of N. J. He is a member of Kilwinning Lodge, No. 825, F. and A. M.



MR. OSWALD LEOPOLD MERKT



MR. AUGUST W. NEUMANN

**August W. Neumann**

August W. Neumann, treasurer of the Frank Brewery and the first vice-president of the Ridgewood National Bank, was born in Carlsruhe, Grand Dutchy of Baden, Germany, in 1853. At the age of eighteen, he left the High School of his native city to study law, but circumstances in connection with his family caused his father to emigrate to this country. Young Neumann entered the employ of a firm dealing in dye and chemicals in New York and by close attention and diligence, soon became one of the most proficient men in the business.

In 1880, he established himself and carried on his business successfully until the year 1906, when he sold out and took a trip to Europe with his wife.

In 1900, at the instigation of his brother-in-law, John M. Moser, deceased, and of whose estate he is one of

the executors, he affiliated himself with the Frank Brewery of Ridgewood, serving in a passive way as vice-president. In 1906 he became active vice-president, and in 1911, at the death of Mr. Moser, he became treasurer of the company, which office he now holds.

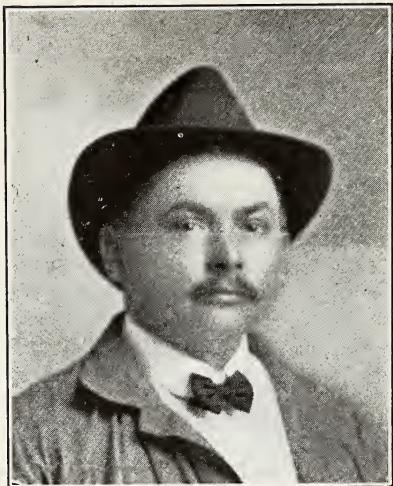
Mr. Neumann's chief claim to distinction is perhaps found in the big part he played in the affairs of the Zoellner Maennerchor of Brooklyn. He became a member of this well-known society in 1877; was elected president in 1885, and served the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of this society as its president. He was treasurer for two years and was re-elected president in 1890. It was mainly through Mr. Neumann's untiring work that the beautiful \$125,000 home of the Zoellner Maennerchor was made possible. He assisted in the fair gotten up for this purpose, which was said to have been one of the biggest ever held in Brooklyn and which netted the society \$14,000 during two weeks' duration.

In 1892, Mr. Neumann was made Honorary President, in recognition of his loyalty and work for the society, and received a beautiful and expensive set of resolutions as a further token of the members' regard for him.

Mr. Neumann was one of the founders of the Ridgewood National Bank and is first vice-president of this institution. He is also a member of Schiller Lodge, No. 304, F. and A. M., and in January of this year was honored with the Apron in recognition of his twenty-five years' membership in good standing in the lodge.

Mr. Neumann is well liked by all those who know him and his charitable acts done in a quiet way are widespread.

In 1880, he married a daughter of Jacob Foertsch, a prominent physician on the West Side of New York. There are no children.



MR. BALDWIN PALMER

**Baldwin Palmer**

Like a number of others mentioned in this book, Baldwin Palmer, proprietor of the Evergreen Knitting Mills, has had a remarkable career, beginning at the bottom and rising to become the possessor of an independent fortune.

Mr. Palmer was born in Chemnitz, Saxony, Germany, in 1870, and came to America in 1891. After a great deal of difficulties, he came from up-State and started a business at the corner of Wyckoff Avenue and Summerfield Street in 1893, in a corner store, occupying the upstairs as living rooms. Here, with the help of his faithful wife, who worked side by side with him from the beginning up until a few years ago, when both practically retired from active business, the first knitting mills was established in the section, and so wonderfully did the business prosper that one year later eight employees were enlisted to help turn out the orders. The place soon proved inadequate for the necessary output, and in 1901, the plant was removed to Cypress Avenue and North Street, in what was already then an

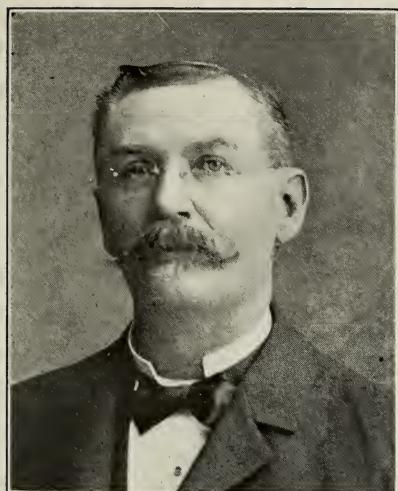
historic place. This house was originally on Neuweiler's farm and is said to be the first house in the section, having been built, according to reliable information, more than seventy-eight years ago. The house was removed to Cypress Avenue and North Street, and became infamous as the "Burnt Rag," attracting the vicious from all parts of Brooklyn and forming a headquarters for ribaldry, drinking and sometimes murder. The property then came into the hands of William Janes, whose shingle advertised the proprietor as "Dealer in Barley Water and Smoke." When Mr. Palmer acquired the place, he made alterations suitable for the purpose of a knitting mills and since then this historic place has been the headquarters of German industry and thrift.

Mr. Palmer has the reputation of turning out a very high-class quality of knitting goods and has now forty helpers and imported machinery valued at \$38,000, turning out about \$150,000 worth of knitted goods annually.

Mr. Palmer's first name is derived from a titled English grandfather whom he never knew, but the family records contain an account of the intermarriage of the Englishman, Baldwin, with the Palmer family in Germany.

Mr. Palmer is very prominent in society circles and is a member of the Schwaebischer Singing Society, Sie and Er Bowling Club, Exempt Active Member of the Arion Singing Society, Von Mensch, F. and A. M., No. 765, Evergreen Board of Trade, honorable member of the Liederkranz Wusterbrandt, and other societies.

Mr. Palmer has a very beautiful all-year residence at Sea Cliff, L. I., considered the most beautiful of any of the shore front properties, and a summer home at Lake Taconic, New York State, where he spends several months each year.



MR. JOHN E. RAEDER

**Mr. John E. Raeder**

Mr. John E. Raeder, father of Dr. Emil G. Raeder, was born in Kaiserauern, Bavaria, in 1846, and came to America in 1867, becoming a full-fledged citizen in 1875.

Mr. John E. Raeder came to Ridgewood and was one of the pioneers of Grove Street at a time when, as he interestingly relates, there were only four houses on the thoroughfare and a constable at the corner of Wyckoff Avenue and Grove Street.

Mr. John E. Raeder has the distinction of being the organizer of what became some of the most prominent and widely advertised societies, such as the Bavarian Central Society, of which he was the first president; the Wittelsbach Verein, and was instrumental in uniting the various Bavarian societies into one general body. Mr. John E. Raeder has the honor of having been instrumental in starting the first of what since have become famous, the Bavarian Volksfests, about twenty-five years ago in Deckel-

mann's Ridgewood Park, and of which he was the first president.

His skill as an accountant brought him into demand when the Welz and Zerweck Brewery, Frank Ibert Brewing Co., Diogenes Brewery and North American Brewery were organized.

John E. Raeder served as a Lieutenant Yoeger in the First Bavarian Regiment. Mr. Raeder has three sons: Charles, Emil and Louis, of whom Emil is the best known in the Greater Ridgewood section, controlling an extensive dental practice and being a director and officer of the Ridgewood National Bank and the Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Co.

**Charles Rothenbach**

Mr. Charles Rothenbach, president of Charles Rothenbach, Inc., while not a resident of Greater Ridgewood, has all his business interests here and is keenly interested in the civic affairs of our community, as is attested by his membership in and co-operation with the Ridgewood Board of Trade and the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association.

He has been in the lumber business all his life, having begun as office boy in a well-known Williamsburg lumber concern, where he worked his way up to the position of shipping clerk. This he resigned to take up the management of another concern for the estate of its founder. After twelve years spent in this capacity, he undertook the establishment of the business which is described elsewhere in this volume and has built it up through his own personal efforts into one of the important industries of Greater Ridgewood.

In addition to the affiliation already mentioned, Mr. Rothenbach is a member of Oltman's Lodge, 446, F. and A. M., DeWitt Clinton Commandery, Knights Templar; Ridgewood Chapter and Kis-met Temple.



MR. HENRY ROTH

**Henry Roth**

The most satisfying chapter in the life of every successful man, who has risen from the bottom up, is the difficulties he has overcome and the early struggles that he used as stepping stones in order to attain the desired goal.

Henry Roth is such a man. Born August 22d, 1860, in Germany, he departed from the Mother Country and came to America as a poor boy. By dint of hard work and struggle, he slowly worked his way up until he became a factor in the affairs of the community.

His expert knowledge, for instance, of real estate, was recognized by Mayor Schieren and he was appointed as city appraiser in acquiring land for the Williamsburg Bridge approach. This knowledge, too, enabled him to seize opportunities in the real estate field and launch building operations that have

brought him independence and affluence.

As Secretary and Treasurer of the Welz and Zerweek Company, he serves in an executive position that has made the credit of this company one of high and proud standing and its influence is far-reaching in a business sense.

Mr. Roth, in 1881, married Rose Strauss, by whom he has two sons, Benjamin H. and Jerome, both of whom are employed in the company with which the father is identified, one as manager of the bottling department and the other as office manager.

Mr. Roth is a trustee of the Title Guarantee and Trust Co., Nassau Trust Co., Sumner Savings Bank, Treasurer of the Jewish Hospital Society of Brooklyn, member of the Broadway Board of Trade, Brooklyn League, Cassia Lodge, F. and A. M.; Unity Club, Hanover Club and the Arion Singing Society and the Schwaebischer Saengerbund.

**Mr. William Reibling**

William Reibling, proprietor of Reibling's Greater New York Park, was born in Rheinpfalz, Bavaria, Germany, and came to America in 1896, coming direct to Brooklyn. Previous to his establishment of the beautiful new Greater New York Park and Dancing Pavilion, he conducted a cafe at Linden Street and Wyckoff Avenue. In 1900, he took possession of his Greater New York Park and has since made it famous throughout the Greater City.

In 1876, he married Anna Groppe, by whom he has six children: Henry, Peter (married), Anna (Mrs. Barney Koenig), Louis, Elsie and Carrie.

Mr. Reibling is a member of the Ridgewood Democratic Club, Glendale



MR. WILLIAM RIEBLING

Haymakers, Glendale Benevolent Society, Unity Democratic Club and other organizations.

#### Henry Schmidt

Henry Schmidt, one of our section's well-known early farmers, who now lives at Dry Harbor Road near Myrtle Avenue, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1843, and came to America in 1866.

Over forty-three years ago, he came to Woodward Avenue in the vicinity of Linden Street, where he conducted a farm and raised truck vegetables until 1907, when he sold the place and bought eighteen acres of land in the Forest Park-view section.

In 1877, Mr. Schmidt married Catherine Reide, by whom he has six children. He is a member of the Glendale Taxpayers' Association; but, outside of this, he is not affiliated with any other organization.

#### Balthasar Schnell

To serve twenty terms as president of the Hessische Saengerbund of which Dr. Felix Jaeger is conductor, is a distinction belonging to Balthasar Schnell, the well-known coach, carriage, wagon and automobile painter.

Mr. Schnell was born at Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, April 3d, 1868, and after attending parochial school and being confirmed in 1883, came to this country with his father's family, going to work in a wagon painting establishment at a beginning of \$2 per week. His evenings, Mr. Schnell employed by attending night school for seven years and coming out with the record of never having missed a single night.

Mr. Schnell became an expert letterer and retained a position with Peter Bertsch, which he held for twenty years. In 1903, he established his own business at 1080 Flushing avenue, making it one of the best known in the city. He does all the high class work for such concerns as Adolph Goebel, Welz and Zerweck, H. C. Bohack and several large bread companies and concerns. He employs an average of twenty men.

He married Anna Krumm, who was also a native of Hessen-Darmstadt, and has three children: John, now a lad of thirteen; Herman and Edward.

Besides the aforementioned singing society, he is a member of Alemania Lodge No. 740, F. and A. M.; Court Ivy, F. of A.; Sachsen Thuringer Kranken Unterstuetzung Verein, Long Island Hain Vereinigten Order der Druiden and treasurer of United Singers of Brooklyn.

### Henry Stroh

Mr. Henry Stroh, deceased, can rightly be termed to have been one of the pioneers of Woodward Avenue. He came to America in 1880 and went to Sandusky, Ohio, where he stayed for two years, coming to Brooklyn in 1882 and settling, with his wife, Katharina Stroh, at Bushwick and Montrose Avenues. Here he established himself in the cigar manufacturing business, which he continued for a period of ten years. His five sons were born at this place, namely: Henry, George Joseph, John Lester, Raleigh Andrew, and Frederick William Stroh.

From the above address, he moved on September 18th, 1893, with his wife and family, to the Ridgewood Heights section and occupied the first two-story frame house in the Greater Ridgewood of today, situated at the corner of Greene and Woodward Avenue<sup>3</sup>. Here the good Lord blessed him with two more sons, both being Christmas gifts; Frederick

Stroh being born on the first Christmas Eve in Ridgewood and Jacob Stroh a year later on the same day, the last and seventh son, a coincident that is considered very lucky; but, strange to say, both of these Christmas children died in their childhood.

Having been successful with his liquor business, as well as in the manufacture of his cigars, which he carried on next door to his cafe in a small shop which is standing in the rear yard of what is now No. 504 Woodward Avenue and still owned by Mrs. Katharina Stroh, he decided to improve his property by having another story built on the corner house, removing the shop to the rear of the yard, and placing a three-story house on the premises. Just as the last cartload of dirt was taken away by Contractor Schiller, Mr. Henry Stroh died, on December 18th, 1900, at 2 P.M. His death was indeed a very sorrowful Christmas for his family.

The following spring, Mrs. Katharina,



THE OLD STROH HOMESTEAD

Showing how the corner of Greene and Woodward Avenues looked in 1893

Stroh continued with the building of what is now 502-504 Woodward Avenue. The contracting work was done by Mr. George Spitzer, of Harman Street. Mrs. Stroh also continued the business, with the helpful aid of her sons, for six years after and then decided to retire, selling the 502 Woodward Avenue house and moving into her property next door.

Shortly after that, Mrs. Stroh purchased the property at 434 Cornelia Street, where she now resides.

Her two oldest sons, who have achieved positions of prominence, are married.

### John Lester Stroh

John Lester Stroh has probably the most uniquely fitted out room in the world. The entire room is papered with printed photographs and lithos of theatrical celebrities of the world and represents a painstaking collection that probably is not duplicated anywhere.

Mr. Stroh asserts that it is the only room of its kind he has ever seen anywhere in any part of the whole world. The room was arranged by himself with the helpful aid of his mother and took almost two years to complete. It is open to local visitors at any time and is well worth seeing.

John Lester has, within a comparatively short time, attained considerable renown on both the American and European professional stage.

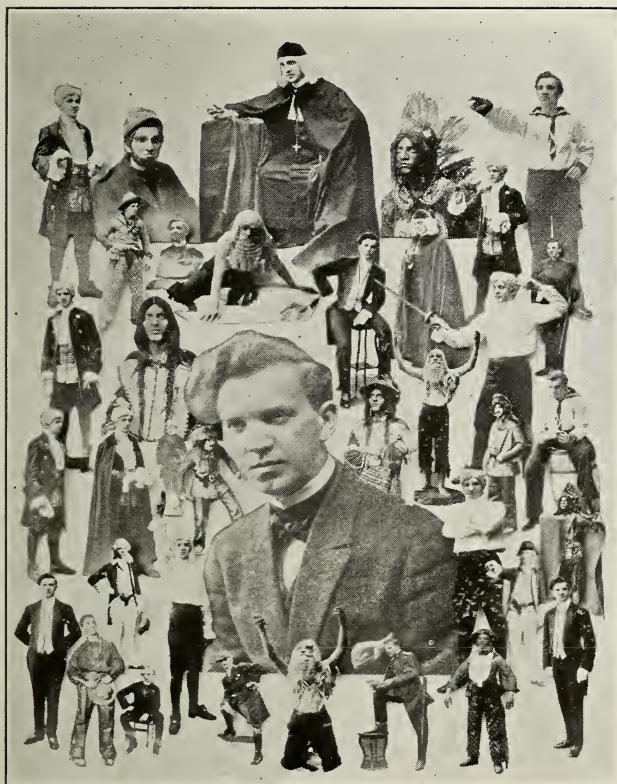
His early training and study were obtained under the tutorship of Mme. Alexander Biarda, who ranks in artistic fame with Sarah Bernhardt.

He has the distinction of having played leads the very first year of his professional career.

Ridgewood is proud in having turned out a young man with the historic ability that Mr. Stroh possesses.

#### JOHN LESTER

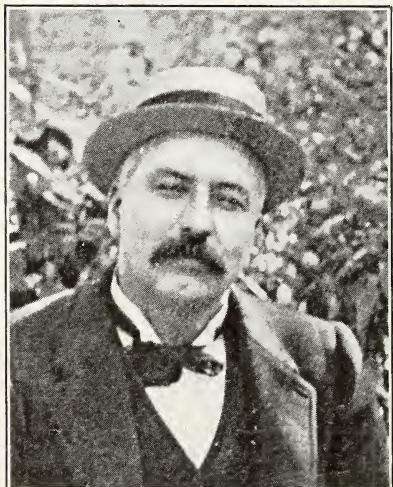
In a few of his characteristic poses in plays that have brought him renown and success on the stage.



**John B. Ulber**

Mr. John B. Ulber is another of our successful men who began life under adverse conditions. Mr. Ulber was born in Switzerland. As a penniless boy he went to work in Paris and started as cook and later as waiter. After the close of the Paris Exposition, he was asked to come to America by the Delmonico management. After sixteen years of faithful service, he was advanced to head manager. Meantime he invested his savings in Nebraska farm land, buying property at \$5.00 per acre and selling same at \$35 per acre. Mr. Ulber next invested money in the Elk Brewery, and not only lost his original investment, but considerable money besides. Despite these reverses, Mr. Ulber made a success of the several restaurants which he established.

Mr. Ulber built five houses on Norman Street in 1885 and took an active interest in improving Norman Street, installing water, gas and sewer at his own expense. He was one of the organizers of the Evergreen Board of Trade.



MR. JOHN B. ULMER



MR. PHILIP VOLLMOELLER

**Philip Vollmoeller**

Mr. Vollmoeller, formerly a boss baker in Williamsburg, now a New York flour merchant, whose home at Forest Avenue corner Madison (where he built in 1895), is one of the ornaments of that street, was born in Germany, November, 1855.

He came here in 1872, and while working at his trade, attended night school on Wall Street, now Arion Place.

In 1895, he married Mrs. Mary Licht (nee Wehle), widow of Phillip Licht, the famous fireworks manufacturer, and daughter of Peter Wehle, for many years proprietor of a hotel on Forest Avenue near Butler Street, by whom he has two children—twins: Walter and Mamie, both students at the Newtown High School.

Mr. Vollmoeller was for some years a trustee of the East Williamsburg School Board up to the time of consolidation.

By a previous marriage, Mr. Vollmoeller had three children: Etta (Mrs. Ernst Merz, of Richmond Hill), Phillip, who married Elizabeth Reuther, and

lives on Prospect Avenue, and Charles.

Mr. Vollmoeller is a member of the Williamsburg Boss Bakers' Association, of Newtown Council, Royal Arcanum, Harmonie Lodge No. 394, I. O. O. F., and of the Warra Bowling Club.

#### **John Welz, Jr.**

John Welz, Jr., son of the late John Welz, founder of the Welz and Zerweck Brewery, was born at the corner of Scholes Street and Graham Avenue, in the old Williamsburg section, in 1859.

In 1861, he was brought to our section by his parents, who had already established a brewery and who had decided to cast their fortunes with the business in Ridgewood.

When he became of school age, he was sent to attend school in the old Cooper Avenue school and later a private school, which was conducted in the rear of

Kreuscher's Hotel, where Nolte's moulding mill now is. Still later he attended the old Public School at Ten Eyck Street and then Wright's Business College.

He served his apprenticeship in his father's business for several years and then took over the business with Charles Zerweck.

In 1879, Mr. Welz married Ida Klein of Brooklyn. He has a son, Edward, who holds a responsible position in the Welz and Zerweck Company.

Mr. Welz is a member of Schiller Lodge, No. 304 F. and A. M.; Arion Singing Society, Schwaebischer Saengerbund and other societies.

#### **Edmund Zahn**

When Edmund Zahn took hold of Schwaben Hall, friends feared that he had taken hold of an undertaking that he could not successfully make pay; but in the twenty months that he has had the place, he has put it on a successful paying basis and it is generally known that business is being turned away now because of a lack of open dates.

Mr. Zahn was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1867. Mr. Zahn as a young man manifested considerable skill as a trapeze performer and became a professional at this form of athletics. He later entered the painting business and became a boss painter well known throughout all Brooklyn.

In 1888, he married Loretta Rothkowsky and by her has two grown children: Charles and Ella. He is fond of singing, bowling, fishing, turning and the theatre. He is a member of the 20th Assembly District Democratic Club, Turn Verein Vorwaerts, Ex-President



MR. JOHN WELZ, Jr.



MR. EDMUND ZAHN

Williamsburg Saengerbund, Schwaebischer Saengerbund and Labor Lyceum, and is widely known throughout German social circles of Brooklyn and Queens.

#### **Charles C. D. Zerweck**

Let a young man in Germany apprentice himself for a trade and he learns that trade thoroughly.

Mr. Charles C. D. Zerweck had this advantage in addition to the fact that his father was a brewmaster before him and taught him many of the secrets of successful brewing, that Mr. Zerweck applied later in America.

Mr. Charles Zerweck was born in Germany, July 25th, 1848, and came to

America in 1868. In 1874 he was induced to come to Ridgewood, becoming brewmaster of Marquard's, now Frank's Brewery. In 1878, he accepted a more profitable office made by the Welz Brewery and continued here until, in 1883, when he and Mr. John Welz, Jr., took over the business.

In 1877, Mr. Zerweck married Amelia Welz, daughter of his employer and has four children: Carl H., who has succeeded his father as brewmaster; Pauline and Marie, who married Fred and Frank Fuhrman, and Frieda, who married George Stamm.

Mr. Zerweck is a member of Schiller Lodge No. 304, F. and A. M., Arion Singing Society, and Schwaebischer and Williamsburg Saengerbund.

#### **Joseph Zink**

Joseph Zink, financial secretary of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, was born in Brooklyn September 17th, 1879. He was formerly a dealer in leaf tobacco, but at present is a manufacturer of cigars.

Although residing in Greater Ridgewood only a short time, Mr. Zink has been intimately acquainted with our section for the last eighteen years, and has been active in the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association for the last four years.

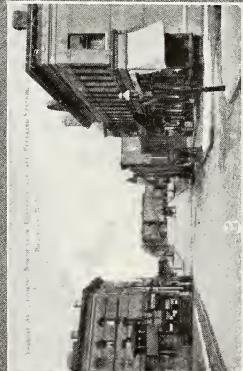
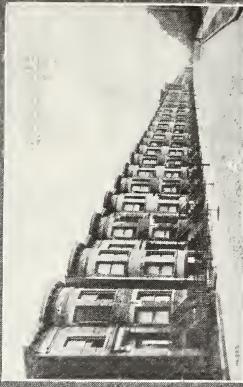
Mr. Zink has showed great activity in working for the betterment of conditions in our section and this has been his purpose in identifying himself with the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association.

In 1902, he married Mary Weidner, by whom he has three boys: Charles, George and Joseph.

He is a member of Foresters of America, Court Alecyone No. 120; Catholic Benevolent Legion (Annunciation Council No. 17), and German American Democratic League.

## **PART VIII**

**OFFICIALS, EX-OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE  
LEGAL PROFESSION**



1—Pairview Avenue, looking North from Linden Street.  
2—Pairview Avenue, looking South from Harman Street.

3—Forest Avenue, looking North from Jefferson Avenue and Elevated Station.

4—Foxall Street, from Onderdonk Avenue.

5—Grandview Avenue, looking North from Linden Street

6—Edsall Avenue, from Fresh Pond Road.

7—Foxall Street, from Fresh Pond Road.

8—Linden Street, looking West from Fairview Avenue.

## CHAPTER XI

### OFFICIALS, EX-OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION



HON. ALBERT C. BENNINGER

#### **Albert C. Benninger**

Assemblyman Benninger was born in Ontario, Canada, in August, 1884, of German parents. His admiration for the United States and its institutions made him cross the border and seek his fortunes under the Stars and Stripes. In 1901, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving five years, part of which time he saw duty in the Philippines and was discharged with honor.

In 1912, he was elected Assemblyman of the Third Assembly District on the Democratic ticket, polling a large majority.

Besides his political activities Mr.

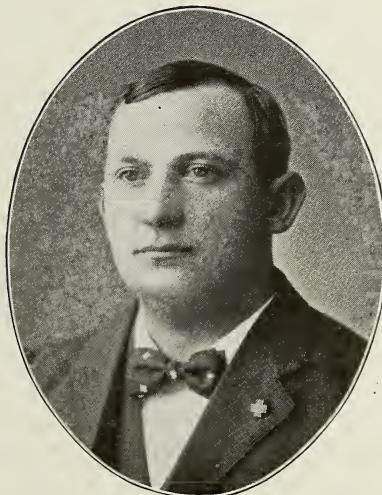
Benninger is identified with the United Boroughs Real Estate Company, a corporation that is engaged in developing extensive tracts of land in Long Island and is secretary of the company.

He is a member of the Ridgewood Democratic Club, Ridgewood Park Board of Trade, Jamaica Bay Improvement Association, Jefferson Democratic Club, Mordick Democratic Club, Spanish-American War Veterans Association, Elliott Camp No. 84, etc.

In 1906, he married Katherine Hagemeyer.

#### **John Bulck, Jr.**

Mr. John Bulck is one of the most aggressive and successful social and political workers in Kings County. His popularity as a political factor is too well known to require any further comment than the mention of his name. He is a



HON. JOHN BULCK, Jr.

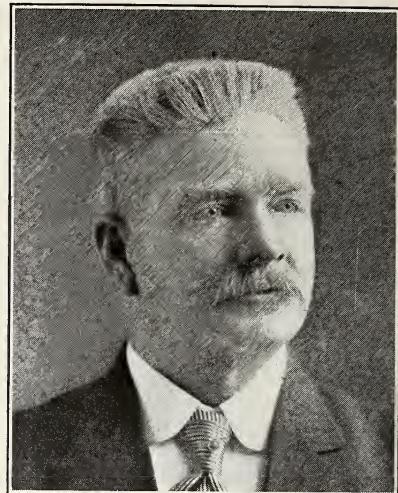
member of innumerable civic and social organizations and in nearly everyone he has done creditable work. He is president of John K. Neal Republican Club for the eleventh term; member of Republican County Committee 14 years; member Hubbel Camp No. 4; Bedford Lodge, Masonic Order; Artistic Lodge, Odd Fellows; Court Columbian, Foresters of America; Local No. 12, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; Unity Republican Club, Ridgewood Board of Trade (vice-president third term, also chairman Executive Committee.)

Mr. Bulek was born in Brooklyn on October 1st, 1874. He has lived in Brooklyn all his life and was in his father's employ here for about 12 years. He then accepted the office of head jailer under Chas. Gouden in the Raymond Street Jail. Soon after, he was employed in the office of State Superintendent of Elections. Deputy Sheriff has been Mr. Bulek's hobby, having served in that capacity for four years. He discharged the functions of deputy sheriff for Kings County under Messrs. A. Hobbey and Chas. B. Law, and he is now employed under the latter in the same position. He married Miss Pauline Vermilyea, a descendent of a famous American family, in 1908.

#### Thomas F. Crough

Thomas F. Crough, of 1432 Metropolitan Avenue, has been a resident of this section for more than twenty years. He was born October 31st, 1895, in Brooklyn.

When he undertook to establish his monument business where he did, he was generally ridiculed, but he went after business and got it. A small percentage of his business comes from the Linden



MR. THOMAS F. CROUGH

Hill Cemetery. He does a great deal of work for St. John's and Lutheran Cemeteries and has been especially favored by Bohemian and Hungarian families in New York.

Mr. Crough married Catherine A. Guerin of Parkville, October 16th, 1889. He has three children: Mabel D., Alvin V. and Richard.

He has been president of the Metropolitan Taxpayers' Association since its organization in 1905. He has been a member of the Local School Board for the past ten years, being reappointed by Successive Borough Presidents. He is a member of the Second Ward Democratic Club, Ridgewood Democratic Club, Newtown Council, R. A., Court U. S. Grant, Foresters of America; Fraternal Order of Eagles and a non-commissioned officer, retired, of the Fourteenth Regiment National Guard, New York.



HON. AUGUST G. BEYER

**August G. Beyer**

Ex-Justice August George Beyer has an enviable record as a worker in civic affairs. Mr. Beyer was born in New York City, March 29th, 1867, and came to Ridgewood in 1900.

He attended College of the City of New York and in 1888 he obtained the degree of L.L.B. from the University of the City of New York. He was admitted to the Bar in 1888, and for over ten years he served as a Justice of the Peace in Westchester County.

The counselor is a member of a great many civic associations, including the Ridgewood Board of Trade, the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association, Allied Boards of Trade and at present counsel

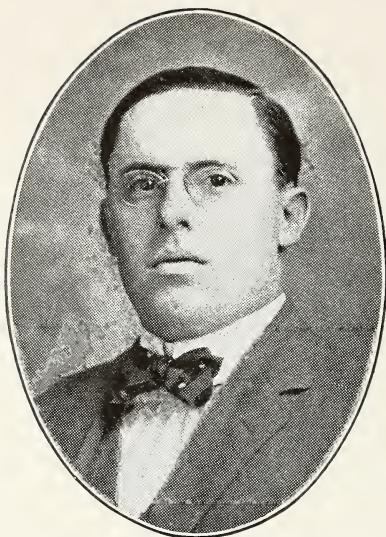
for the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association. He is also a member of the Williamsburg Saengerbund, of which he is vice-president; Turn Verein Vorwaerts, in which he was formerly very active as an athlete; Schwaeischer Saengerbund, of which he is counsel; Musik Verein Harmonie, of which he is counsel; Cortelyou Club, 28th Ward Taxpayers' Association, Twentieth Assembly District Democratic Association, Alumni University of the City of New York (L.L.B.), Star of Hope Lodge No. 430, F. & A. M. (S.W.); Progressive Chapter, R. A. M.; DeWitt Clinton Commandery No. 27, K. T.; Kismet Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.; White Plains Camp, S. O. V.

Mr. Beyer married Albertina S. Walters in 1891 and by her has two children, August George and Anna Louise.

**Maurice E. Connolly**

While Borough President Maurice E. Connolly is not a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section, his entire public career has been so intimately interwoven with our local affairs that we feel the book would not be complete without a brief biographical reference to him.

Maurice E. Connolly was born in Corona June 21st, 1880. He received his education in the local public school and from there went to St. John's College, Brooklyn, from which he graduated in his eighteenth year. He graduated from Columbia Law School and was admitted to the Bar when twenty-one years old. In 1904, he was appointed Assistant Tax Commissioner. In January, 1908, appointed City Magistrate, being the youngest man ever appointed to this position and continued as such until appointed Borough President by the Board of Aldermen October 4th, 1911. He has the distinction of being the youngest member that has ever served



HON. MAURICE E. CONNOLLY

on the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and the youngest Borough President that the City has ever had. He is the youngest of a large family.

He married Miss Helen Connell of Flushing in 1906. The couple have been blessed with one daughter.

Maurice E. Connolly's public record is such that it has won credit for himself and his home borough. His career has been a clean one and he is the type of public man that American citizenship, regardless of party, is seeking for public office.

#### **Charles F. Connolly**

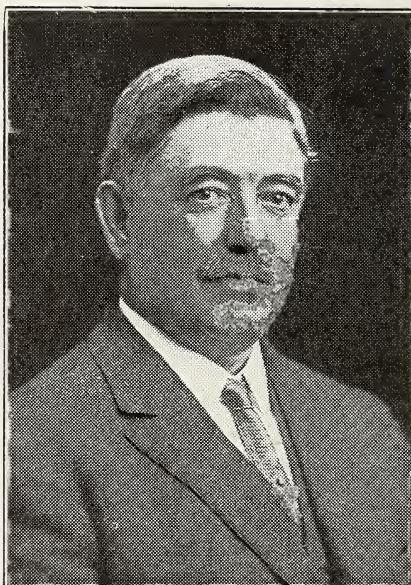
Charles F. Connolly was born June 5th, 1862, in the old Seventh Ward of Brooklyn and educated in the Brooklyn public schools. In 1889, he entered the fire department and served as fireman, lieutenant, captain and acting battalion chief for twenty years, retiring four years ago. He was captain of a Brooklyn company for several years, and upon

the organization of the Far Rockaway company, became captain there and has been a resident of that section of Queens Borough ever since. He was acting battalion chief for the last seven years of his service in the department.

In 1889, he married Emelia Snyder, of Greenpoint, and has two daughters: Loretta and Florence. His home is at 136 Hollywood Avenue, Far Rockaway. Since his retirement after twenty years' active service, he has been the local agent of the Mutual Life Insurance Company in Far Rockaway.

Besides the organizations already mentioned, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Loyal Association, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Central Club of the Fifth Ward and several other societies.

Mr. Connolly is the only candidate for the Assembly to receive the indorsement of the Citizens' Union.



HON. CHARLES F. CONNOLLY



HON. WILLIAM F. DELANEY

**William F. Delaney**

Probably the most active political leader of the 20th Assembly District is William F. Delaney, who has distinguished himself not only as a standard bearer of the Democratic organizations, but as a non-partisan leader on matters affecting the welfare of the community. "Delaney and Democracy" tells the tale in brief, for he is truly the unselfish instrument of his constituents as their love for him attests.

He was born in Brooklyn October 31st, 1867. For twenty years he has been a resident of the 20th Assembly District. His sphere of influence has, of course, included the upper part of our section, and his work in his district has been so much a part of the development of our section that this book would not be complete without reference to his splendid leadership.

In 1894, Mr. Delaney married Mary C. Sullivan and their union has been blessed with three girls and one boy. Mr. Delaney has been connected with

several printing companies, but he finally turned his attention to the political arena. For six years he was clerk of the Sixth District Magistrate's Court; for two and one-half years, he was clerk of the Children's Court. He was then appointed by Chief Justice Kempner as the Chief Clerk of the Second Division, which position he still holds.

In 1910, he was elected to the Assembly, but being one of the minority, his efforts were as he described it, "a cry in the wilderness."

Mr. Delaney is a member of the Royal Arcanums, Knights of Columbus, Foresters of America, Catholic Benevolent Legion, Redmen, Benjamin Franklin Benevolent Society, Wyckoff Heights Benevolent Society and others.

**Joseph DeBragga**

Joseph DeBragga, first Sheriff of Queens County after its consolidation with Greater New York, was born May 22d, 1866, at Broadway and Driggs Avenue, Brooklyn. His parents came to Evergreen in that year, so that Joseph DeBragga has really been a life long resident of Evergreen.

As a young man, Joseph DeBragga learned the trade of iron moulding. He took an active interest in politics and was only twenty-eight years of age when he entered the Sheriff's Office, first as Chief Deputy, then as Under-Sheriff, and then as Sheriff, to which office he was elected in 1900 on the ticket headed by William McKinley.

In 1906-07, Mr. DeBragga was Superintendent of Sewers under Borough President Bermel and had charge of the building of the St. Nicholas and Myrtle Avenue systems. On December 29th, 1911, he was appointed Chief Clerk of the Appellate Term, Second Depart-

ment, of the Supreme Court, a position which he still holds.

Mr. DeBragga is an ex-president of the Evergreen Board of Trade, member of Exempt Firemen's Association of Newtown, Maspeth Lodge 870, I. O. O. F.; Glendale Council, Jr. O. U. A. M.; Doric Lodge 280, F. and A. M.; Treasurer of the Elks Lodge, Long Island City, and a member of practically every Republican Club or Association in Queens County.

Mr. DeBragga married Julia Burkly and has two children: Edna I. and Farman A.

#### **Henry Doht**

Henry Doht was the first of the distinguished trio which constituted a sort of Ridgewood Dynasty in the Sheriff's Office of this County for nearly a decade, interrupted only by the term of W. C. Baker of Jamaica. Joseph DeBragga and Joseph Meyerrose being the other two.

Mr. Doht was born in Versmold, Westphalia, Germany, May 23d, 1857, and came to this country in 1872, whence he had been preceded by his brother Theodore a short time before. He had received a good elementary education in the schools of his native city, which he supplemented by a course at a New York Evening High School and a great deal of reading.

He began his career in this country immediately upon his arrival as a clerk in a Sixth Avenue grocery store in New York City. About three years later (at the age of eighteen) he, in partnership with his brother, Theodore, opened a butcher shop at Broadway, Ralph and Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, in the building now known as Ridgewood Hall, but which was then called Coby Hall.

Within a couple of years this business was sold and the brothers went into the milk business, opening a place at 200



HON. HENRY DOHT

York Street, near Gold Street, in Brooklyn. This business grew rapidly and several wagons were serving customers all over Brooklyn. In 1881, the business was extended to include a dairy which was established on Wyckoff Avenue, near Palmetto Street, immediately adjoining the old Welz Brewery. (The Doht building appears in the picture of the old Welz place elsewhere in this volume). This plant was moved to Fresh Pond Road near Myrtle Avenue in 1884, and the present home of the ex-Sheriff was built in that year. The property was purchased by the Doht brothers from Mrs. John Vanderwear, daughter of "Rope-Walk" John DeBevoise. The old rope walk, which was situated on the present site of the row of concrete block houses adjoining the Doht home, being remodeled into barns for a part of the Doht herd of cows. The following year the entire business was moved to Ridgewood; two years later the business was divided, each of the brothers continuing his share of the business for several years. Henry Doht

retired finally from the milk business in 1896.

Henry Doht's first public office was that of Highway Commissioner from 1888 to 1894, in which capacity he rendered such conspicuous service that he was not re-elected for another three year term, but was called to a higher office by a most emphatic expression of public approval and appreciation before his second term had expired. He was elected Sheriff of Queens County in 1894, carrying every election district in the County. He was thus the last Sheriff of this County previous to its consolidation with the City of New York, at a time when the County included all of what is now Nassau County.

In 1900, he ran again as a Republican candidate, this time for Borough President. He was ill during this campaign and the official count showed his Democratic opponent, Joseph Cassidy, elected by a small plurality. It was the desire of his friends and of the party leaders that evidences of fraud be investigated, but the illness of Mr. Doht at the time was a factor in the neglect to press these claims.

Public attention was attracted to the resourcefulness, enterprise and fertility of ideas of Henry Doht during his incumbency as Highways Commissioner, although the full realization of some of his far-seeing projects are only now evident to all.

As Highway Commissioner, he was confronted with the crying need of highway improvements on the one hand and the lack of available funds for the purpose on the other. During his first year in this office he secured the enactment of State Legislation whereby the County was enabled to collect a Health Department Burial Permit Fee of \$1.00 on each interment of non-residents in the cemeteries of Queens County. This yielded a fund of over \$50,000 per year,

net, which was used in paving several miles of streets, including Wyckoff Avenue, Metropolitan Avenue, Grand Street, and other streets in Woodside, Corona and elsewhere.

It was automatically invalidated by the act of consolidation, but its re-enactment is now being considered.

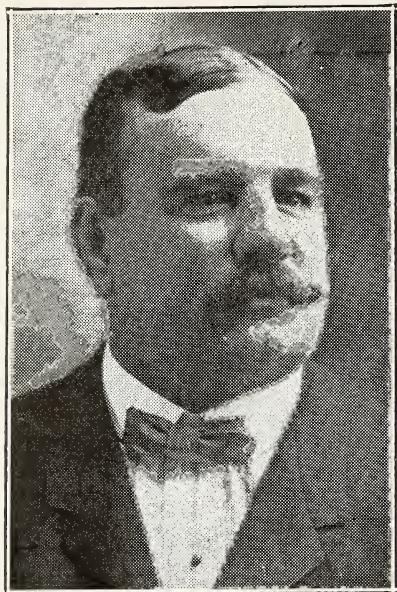
Commissioner of Highways Doht not only managed to make a record under adverse conditions for road improvements, but he busied himself in urging upon street railroad companies the advantages of extensions of street car lines and the acceptance by them of franchises to run cars through Ridgewood to Jamaica, etc.

Mr. Doht labored as earnestly with gas companies at that time and had great difficulty in inducing one of them to hazard the starting of a plant to supply this vicinity with gas.

Among the difficult tasks wherein he acquitted himself with credit and public approval was in the handling of the great B. R. T. car strike, during the first few months of his term as Sheriff. There were then no police in the County other than the deputy sheriffs, special deputy sheriffs and constables and about 1800 specials.

Mr. Doht married Louise Beinbrink, a native of Alsum, Germany, in 1887, and has four daughters: Augusta, Louise, Henrietta and Hellen, and a son, Frederick, who is a student at the Bordentown Military Institute.

He is a member of the Republican County Central Committee, Wyckoff Republican Club, Union League of Elmhurst, Ivanhoe Fire Company, Exempt Firemen's Association of Newtown, trustee of Middle Village Lutheran Church, director of Art Concrete Construction Company and director of the American Copper and Gold Company of Humboldt, Arizona.



HON. GEORGE EMENER

**George Emener**

Ex-Alderman George Emener was born on Forest Avenue in 1863; at time when very little indeed was known of our section by the outside world.

In the early days, Mr. Emener conducted a hotel at Metropolitan and Woodward Avenues and later at Fresh Pond Road and Matropolitan Avenue. He served also as assessor for the Town of Newtown and for twelve years in the Tax Department of the City of New York, receiving a beautiful set of resolutions from his friends in the department, expressive of their regard for him, when he retired. He served a term as overseer of the poor and held the offices of chief, battalion chief, trustee and president of the Newtown Fire Department and served as deputy, foreman and assistant foreman of the Fearless Hook and Ladder Co. No. 7, receiving a beautiful diamond studded badge from the men while chief, and a beauti-

ful silver trumpet while battalion chief.

Mr. Emener served our section as Alderman during 1908-1909 and won the esteem of the people. It is said that his too vigilant interest on behalf of the people brought him into disfavor with the politicians and that he lost a renomination on this score. His fight on behalf of the people against the Cord Meyer Water Co.; his lead in the agitation for a rapid fire department; his agitation that started the successful opposition against the Myrtle Avenue Widening, and his other activities on behalf of the people, will always be remembered by the people and would entitle him, if anything did, to be placed in the list of those entitled to public office.

Ex-Alderman Emener is vice-chairman of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association; Commodore of the Jamaica Bay Yacht Club, the members of which presented him with a beautiful diamond-studded medal; a member of the Foresters of America, Court Newtown; the Eagles, F. H. & L. Co. No. 47, Newtown Exempt Firemen's Association, Volunteer Fire Department of Newtown and a member of a great many Democratic clubs.

Mr. Emener is direct agent for the Aetna Fire Insurance Co., Royal Insurance Co., Home Insurance Co., Phoenix Insurance Co. of Hartford, Conn., Phoenix Assurance Co. of London, Glen Falls Fire Insurance Co., Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Co., Prussian National Insurance Co., New York Plate Glass Insurance Co., Home Fire Insurance Co., North British and Mercantile Fire Insurance Co. and Casualty Co. of America. He is recognized as one of the most successful insurance men of the Greater City.

Mr. Emener married Justine Mantel in 1886, and by her has three sons and one daughter, John, Henry, George and Catherine.



HON. OTTO C. GELBKE

**Otto C. Gelbke**

Few, if any, men prominent in the affairs of Greater Ridgewood enjoy a wider personal acquaintance than Alderman Otto C. Gelbke.

Born in New York City April 1st, 1877, he came to Brooklyn with his parents eleven years later. For nine years he was foreman in the repair shops of the C. I. & B. R. R. During this time he undertook to gratuitously coach employees who were trying to pass police, post-office and fire department examinations, and was so successful that the idea suggested itself that he devote all his time to this kind of work.

He then took the examination for letter carrier himself, and his high position on the list secured him an immediate appointment.

Assigned to the little Maspeth Post Office, his energetic methods soon made him conspicuous. He gave the families on his route the best service they had ever had. The map of the district, which he made at that time, was the first and only post office map in exist-

ence, and was used by the Washington authorities in laying out the present Post Office District. During this period he was elected president of the Flushing Letter Carriers' Association and was delegate to Canton, Ohio, in 1907, and to St. Paul, Minn., in 1909, to represent the Letter Carriers' Association.

He was studying hard at this time, too, preparing himself to establish a Civil Service School on a solid academic foundation.

Resigning his post-office position, he opened his now famous Queensborough Preparatory School at Ridgewood Colosseum, and later, following its destruction by fire, at Myrtle and Woodhaven Avenues, Glendale.

In the fall of 1911, he was chosen as the Fusion candidate for Alderman and was elected by a veritable landslide.

In April, 1899, he married Theresa Hoenberg of Glendale, and has two children: Arthur W. G., ten years of age, and little Anna Theresa. His home is at 59 Dill Place.

Alderman Gelbke, not only efficiently represents his District at the Local Board meetings, but he is in constant and intimate touch with the affairs of his district. Also he is always easy to find and quick to respond when citizens need help of any kind.

He is a member of innumerable societies and extremely popular throughout Queens County, where his activities are largely centered.

**John H. Gerken**

In the years that Mr. John H. Gerken has conducted his picnic park ventures in our section, he has won the esteem and confidence of local people. Mr. Gerken bought his first park, the Ridgewood Grove, from Jacob Benner in 1899, and in 1909, the Ridgewood Colosseum was bought. Both of these parks proved profitable. The rapid improvement of

the surrounding section and the necessity of thoroughfares in the Evergreen section, compelled the cutting through of streets through this park land and when Mr. Gerken foresaw this necessity in 1910, he acquired Glendale Schuetzen Park, which has since become the park for all big society affairs.

Mr. Gerken was born in Brooklyn in 1877. In 1909, he married Ora E. Elliott and by her has one son, John H., Jr.

Mr. Gerken was elected to the Assembly for the Sixth Assembly District of Queens in 1910 and has served two terms. He is a member of the Schwaebischer Saengerbund and the Brooklyn Lodge of Elks and Baltic Lodge, No. 284, F. and A. M.

#### **Harrison C. Glore**

To say ex-Assemblyman Harrison C. Glore was one of the most aggressive young men that Brooklyn ever sent to Albany would be to assert what can be easily verified by his own splendid public record at the Capitol, always taking the initiative, he introduced, encouraged and furthered every bill which tended to the welfare of his district and the City at large. His efforts at reform directed praiseworthy to be mentioned here. Mr. Glore was appointed chairman of the Committee of Banks by Speaker Wadsworth in 1910. He was also active an member of the Claims and Public Printing Committees, as well as the Committee on Forestry for several years.

Ex-Assemblyman Glore was born in Kentucky on November 6th, 1876, and came to New York when a youth. He was graduated successively from the College of the City of New York, New York Law School and St. Lawrence University. He is one of the most able and popular lawyers of Brooklyn at the present time.



HON. HARRISON C. GLORE

Ex-Assemblyman Glore is a member of innumerable clubs and societies, civic and political. He is president of the Unity Club, member of John K. Neal Republican Club, Ridgewood Lodge, F. and A. M., Brooklyn Chapter, Clinton Commandery, Kismet Temple; Suydam Council, R. A.; 13th Regiment National Guard (Veterans), etc., etc.

He was married to Claribelle Palmer, a most charming woman, in June, 1903, and their marriage has been blessed with one child: Frances, who is at present five years of age.

#### **Lawrence Gresser**

Lawrence Gresser, who for more than sixteen years, was prominent in the political affairs of this section of Queens County, was born in Bavaria, Germany, January 1st, 1851. He learned the shoe makers' trade and on coming to this country as a young man, followed this trade for some time.

In 1889, he came to Glendale and was very soon a factor in local politics.

In 1896, he was appointed clerk in the

Health Department of Brooklyn; in 1888, he was an Inspector of Street Openings in Queens County; in 1900, he was Deputy Commissioner of Water Supply of the Borough of Queens, and in 1902, he became Secretary to the Commissioner of Public Works. In 1904, he was cashier of the Bureau of Highways, Borough of Queens, and in 1906, was appointed Commissioner of Public Works. On April 30th, 1908, he was elected Borough President by the Board of Aldermen to fill out an incompletely term, and in the fall of 1909, was re-elected by the people.

Lawrence Gresser has two sons: Rev. John S. Gresser, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of Hollis, and Lawrence T. Gresser, a lawyer, whose home is at 351 Chelton Avenue.

He is a member of Marquette Council, K. of C.; Second Ward Democratic Club, Elks of Long Island City, and Exempt Firemen, Company No. 9. His home is at 248 Webster Avenue.

#### John F. Hylan

Judge Hylan, better known as the "poor man's friend," fits into that group of successful men who have risen from the lower walks of life and who, despite obstacles of every kind, have pushed themselves to the forefront by dint of energy, sincerity of purpose and persistency of ideals. Born on April 20th, 1868, and raised on a farm in Hunter, Greene County, New York, he enjoyed little of the conveniences of our modern educational system; but what he considers his best schooling was won in what he terms the "school of the people." While working as a common laborer in every phase of manual toil, from working with the spade to locomotive engineer, from farm hand to stoker, he managed, by dint of perseverance, to prepare himself as a member of the bar. In 1897, he graduated from the New York Law School,



HON. JOHN F. HYLAN

and that he graced the profession well is shown by the fact that he was rewarded with judicial office.

His keen insight into human nature and his popularity with the working people is due to the fact that he has always lived and labored among them.

Judge Hylan is president of the Allied Boards of Trade and Taxpayers' Association, president of Kings County Lawyers' Association, president of the Greene County Society, and a member of numerous other social and political organizations.

While Judge Hylan is not a resident of Greater Ridgewood, yet his constant interest and helpfulness in our local affairs and his splendid encouragement given at a time when we needed public men to fight against the elevated project in our section, makes us feel that this book would not be complete without this reference to him.

He was married to Marian O'Hara in 1890, and their marriage has been blessed with a daughter, Virginia, who is now seventeen years of age.

**Arthur Jappe**

Mr. Arthur Jappe is, probably, the first man from our section who has received a political appointment in Washington. Mr. Jappe was born May 1st, 1873, in Manhattan. Shortly after his parents moved to the Bronx, where they have been rated among the oldest families of the section.

Mr. Jappe has had a varied experience. He went forth as a prospector in the days when the Klondyke craze was at its height and was the first one to establish a restaurant on the Chilcoot Pass, between the Stone House and the Summit.

In 1898, Mr. Jappe came to the Ridgewood section, where he became actively engaged in politics. In those days he assisted in organizing the Barney Schwab Battery, and was one of the organizers of the Ridgewood Democratic Club, serving as recording secretary for several years. Later, when the Democratic party took up factional fights, he organized the Third Assembly District Regular Democratic Organization, of which he again was secretary.

It was through his activities in the political field that Mr. Jappe succeeded in being advanced to the position he now holds in Washington. Through his work, he comes in contact with the speakers of Congress and is practically known to everyone of the three hundred and ninety representatives gathered there.

In 1896, Mr. Jappe married Henrietta E. Rufil, by whom he has four children: Herbert, Arthur, Cyrus and Violet.

**James T. Kelly**

James T. Kelly has been a resident of Queens for over fourteen years, coming from the lower section of New York. He is married and a father of five children.



HON. JAMES T. KELLY

He is Past Grand Sub-Chief Ranger of the State of New York of the Foresters of America; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the State of New York, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and an active member of the A. O. of Hibernians, Branch 27. He has been for the past seventeen years Secretary of Court Newtown, Foresters of America, and Treasurer of the Queens County Aerie, No. 548, Fraternal Order of Eagles; an active member of the Fearless Hook and Ladder Co. Volunteers; captain of the Regular Democratic Club of the Ninth Election District of the Third Assembly District of the Borough of Queens; a quiet, unassuming man, who loves his friends; a staunch supporter of organized labor, and at present fills the position of Auditor in the Sheriff's Office, Queens County.

### William I. Karle

Counselor William I. Karle, although practically a young man, has already earned a position in the law business of our section and in political life that presages a very promising future.

Mr. Karle was born and brought up in Greater Ridgewood, his parents living first at Wyckoff Avenue and Ralph Street and later moving across the boundary into Queens. He graduated from the grammar school at Covert Avenue and Bleeker Street; from the Newtown High School and from the New York University and was admitted to the Bar May 1st, 1907.

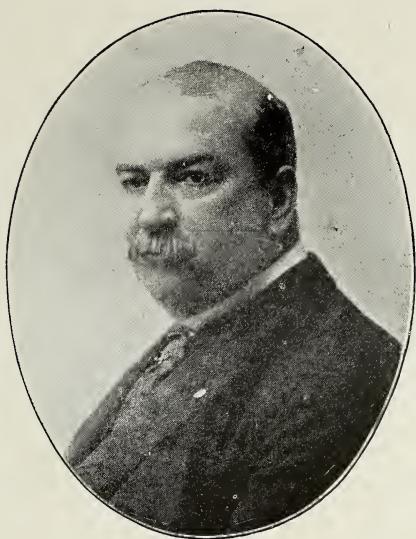
Mr. Karle was appointed Deputy Attorney General of New York State by Attorney General T. Carmody on May 9th, 1912, which position he holds at the present time. He had charge of the legal fight of the property owners on Ralph Street, Gates Avenue and Grove Street to reduce the large assessments in connection with the paving of these streets.

Mr. Karle was married to Margaret Merdes in 1905, and by her has one child, James Wilson.

### William R. Keese

Counselor William R. Keese has identified himself closely with the section by the helpful civic work that he has done in behalf of the property owners.

Mr. Keese was born in New York City in 1864. His father, Martin J. Keese, held the position of Keeper of the City Hall, Manhattan, and was considerably active in politics. This threw Mr. Keese into politics at an early age, not without reward. He became assistant corporation counsel of the City of New York in 1898 and served until 1910, when a change of administration forced him out of office. Mr. Keese was in



MR. WILLIAM ROBERT KEESE

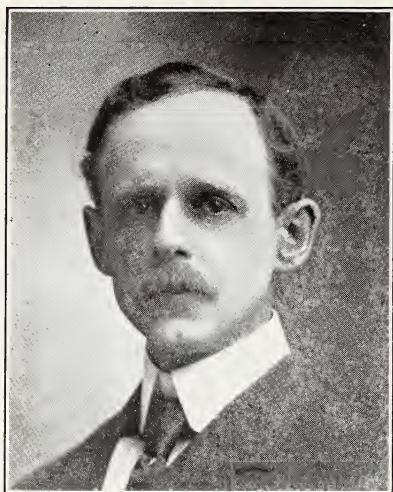
charge of the Bureau of Street and Park Openings, Borough of Queens and, instituted many reforms in this department.

He is a member of the Richmond Hill Board of Trade, Richmond Hill Taxpayers' Association, Royal Arcanum Americus, Banner Chapter 214, Long Island City; Knights Templar; Trinity Commandery, Kismet Temple; President of the Nameoke Democratic Club, and Council for the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association.

In 1886, Mr. Keese married Emma Lewis. There are no children.

### Wyckoff Avenue Terminal

In 1881, the Ridgewood car stables were built and the City cars terminated at that place. Later dummies were placed on Myrtle Avenue and three years after, they, with the Cypress Hills dummies, were removed and replaced by trolley cars. The change was heralded as a great improvement.



HON. CHARLES B. LAW

**Charles B. Law**

The vital issue in local improvements for which Mr. Charles B. Law fought so earnestly during his three terms as Representative in Congress from the Fourth District, is the Jamaica Bay Improvement, which is now under way at an expense of seven and a half million dollars to the Government. To Mr. Law's persistent efforts the first appropriation of \$250,000 was secured for the commencement of the improvement which shall remain forever as the "pride" of New York's commercial supremacy. Through Mr. Law's influence, a municipal appropriation of \$1,000,000 also was secured to further the same project.

Mr. Law has also distinguished himself by advocating the "Postal Savings Bank," which has now become a reality. As the first chairman from Brooklyn in fifty years, Mr. Law headed the War Claims Committee with the exercise of the keenest judgment and discretion. It is said that during his term of office in the capacity of chairman, more bills were referred in the House to the War

Claims Committee than to any other department. The "Omnibus Claims Bill," of which Mr. Law had charge and fathered to a successful issue, was the occasion of one of the most sensational filibusters ever known in the House. In tariff legislation, Mr. Law stood and voted for reduction on necessities of life where such reductions could be had without injury to American industries.

Charles Blakeslee Law was born in the village of Hannibal, N. Y., on the 5th of February, 1872. His father was pastor at Bartlett, N. Y., but young Charles was reared on the farm, riding to and from school on horseback. In 1891 he was graduated from Colgate Academy and in 1895 from Amherst College, Mass., where he received his B.S. degree. Having no money to continue his studies along professional lines, Mr. Law was compelled to work. He studied for two years without the aid of a tutor and then taking a six weeks' summer course in law at Cornell, he was admitted to the bar, ranking among the first twelve in a group of several hundred. This was the first undeniable evidence of Mr. Law's exceptional ability. From then on, there was a gradual rise in the achievements of the present Sheriff of Kings County. After two years connection, he was admitted to the firm of Knidel Bros., thence started in the profession for himself with equal success. In 1904, Mr. Law made his first successful fight for Congress, being elected with a plurality of 1700. Re-elected after two years, he won out with the increased plurality of 5000. In 1908, he was again nominated and again won out with 5000 plurality. In 1911, he was elected Sheriff of Kings County, in which position he has distinguished himself by establishing business methods and encouraging an honest, efficient executive administration of the office. He was married to Miss Alma Best in 1901.



HON. MARTIN MAGER

**Martin Mager**

Ex-County Clerk Martin Mager is one of the few men who have the distinction of having participated in the early Democratic polities of Queens County and come forth with unblemished reputation. Like others, the fortunes of polities led him at times to cast his lot with Democratic factions who have since been brought into ill repute; but through all the years of his political activities, his record has been clean.

In 1906, he organized the Third Assembly District Democratic Organization, for which he provided an elegant building on Forest Avenue, near Butler Street, formerly the Ottolie Waisenhaus.

In 1910, he was nominated for County Clerk and went into office with a sweeping majority.

His record in the County Clerk's Office has been an exemplary one.

Immediately on entering office, he instituted sweeping reforms for the benefit of the taxpayers and brought the work up to date that had been so deplorably neglected. He assisted in the passage of the bill making the office of County Clerk a salaried position which until then was a fee office, although the act was contrary to his personal interests. Numerous political clubs throughout the County are prevailing upon him to be a candidate for the office of Borough President, and at present he is looked upon as one of the few men who have been active in politics for many years and who are available candidates for the position.

Mr. Mager was born in New York City on December 16th, 1859, and came to Middle Village in 1873. His father was Excise Commissioner in the old Town of Newtown for twelve years.

In 1882, he married Theresa Bradring, by whom he has six children.

**William A. Moller**

Quiet, unassuming, cordial and possessing the ability to make friends, William A. Moller, senior member of the law firm of Moller and Karle, was selected, early in 1912, to take the reins of leadership of the administration forces in the Third Assembly District, Queens, being looked upon as the most conciliatory man to put forward at a time when the Democratic party was none too firmly welded together, especially in the Third Assembly District. This distinction, conferred on a young man, was welcomed by all the younger men active in Democratic polities as a recognition of their standing, and William Moller immediately obtained the support of many in the opposing ranks. His efforts to obtain recognition for the Ridgewood section in the matter of



MR. WILLIAM A. MOLLER

appointments has borne good fruit in a number of instances, and there is no doubt that the future will bring with it not only political prestige, but political honors of a high kind as well.

#### **Post Office Organized**

Station "J" was organized October 16th, 1906, with nineteen carriers, one superintendent, one assistant superintendent, four clerks and one laborer.

#### **Charles Feth**

Ex-Assemblyman Charles Feth was born in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, in 1867 and came to America when still a lad. He was a resident of the Brooklyn section of Greater Ridgewood for the past twenty-four years, and for the last two years has lived at 424 Cornelia Street, in the Queens section.

Shortly after consolidation, Mr. Feth

was elected a member of the assembly from the 19th and 20th Assembly Districts, Brooklyn, for two consecutive terms, and was only prevented from further service through the machinations of certain politicians whose ill-favor the young Assemblyman had invited by his too active interest on behalf of the people.

While in the Assembly in 1906, Mr. Feth introduced the first Primary Measure which, of course, was defeated, as all those early measures were. At the behest of the late Sheriff M. J. Flaherty, he introduced and succeeded in having passed the bill to place the Kings County Parks under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Charities, and was one of the prime movers for better car service for the Brooklyn section.

Mr. Feth is a member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, Royal Arcanum, No. 1780, W. T. Holland Council; Musical Union, Local No. 31, A. F. of.; A.; Elm Benevolent Society, Alsace-Lorraine Benevolent Society, Corona Glee Club, Deutscher Schutzen Bund.

In 1893, Mr. Feth was married to Elizabeth Schilt, and has one daughter.



HON. CHARLES FETH



HON. ADAM METZ, Jr.

**Adam Metz, Jr.**

Adam Metz, Jr., who represented this district in the Assembly in 1912, was born April 27th, 1884, and grew up in this part of the city. He was educated at St. Aloysius Parochial School and at the Public School at Cornelia Street and Hamburg Avenue.

On September 1st, 1910, he married Josephine Schupp and has a little daughter. His home and office are at 552 Grove Street.

Although still a young man, he has a well-established and prospering plumbing business and has handled some extensive contracts.

Mr. Metz is probably most widely known for the memorable campaign against the machine candidates of the dominant party, in which he and Aldermanic candidate Otto C. Gelbke defeated Owen Fitzpatrick and Joseph E. Powers for re-election.

Mr. Metz was first nominated by the Republican Party, then endorsed by the Independent League and Independent Democratic faction, and finally elected by a veritable landslide of Democratic votes.

His favorite recreations are automobileing, fishing, shooting, bowling and sports in general.

He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Didgrows Fishing Club and many political organizations.

**Robert H. Wickert**

Robert H. Wickert, junior member of the firm of MacGregor and Wickert, was born in Syracuse January 4th, 1873. Mr. Wickert was an assistant secretary of the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York in 1894, and police clerk in 1895 and 1896. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 1899. For many years he also served as one of the Counsel of the Title Gurantee and Trust Company. Counselor Wickert has always been greatly interested in the development of our section, assisting the editor of the Ridgewood Times in organizing property owners, who sought to have their streets paved, and in other matters. He was also active with other local business men in promoting the organization of the Ridgewood National Bank.

In 1912, Mr. Wickert entered into partnership with Walter S. MacGregor, establishing offices in the Ridgewood Times Building. The partnership has since proven very successful.

In 1911, Counselor Wickert married Helen A. Holzmann.

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What is now Cooper Avenue was but a narrow lane in the early days, connecting Dry Harbor Road with Fresh Pond Road.

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The Manhattan Beach Railroad was built through Ridgewood in 1884.

**John Nuhn**

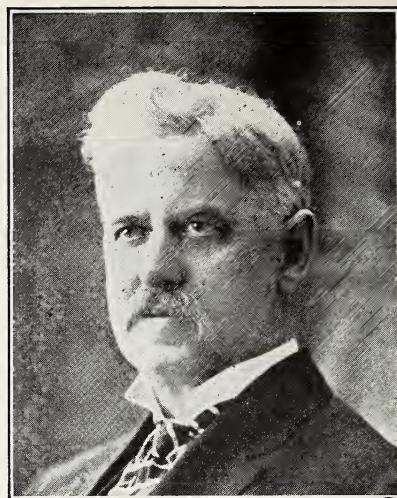
John Nuhn, court clerk of the Third Municipal Court, was born in the old Cooper Mansion in New York City in October, 1867, and came to the Highland Park section in 1887, living first in Vermont Street and later building his own house at No. 1 Crosby Avenue.

Mr. Nuhn enjoys the distinction of being the father of Labor Day, having introduced the resolution in the Central Labor Union. He has also the distinction of having been the organizer of the St. James Park Improvement Association and of the Highland Park Protective Association.

He served as Supervisor of the Town of Newtown, of which Greater Ridgewood was a part, and secretary of the Board of Auditing of the Town Board for three successive years. He also served as Overseer of the Poor and instituted the rule of placing the children in the institutions of their denomination. His fealty and insistence in carrying out the State rules won for him the enmity of those who purposely desired a continuance of the lax rules that Mr. Nuhn fought to overcome. He served with honor on the Local Board of Education for three terms before consolidation with the City of New York.

Mr. Nuhn later served as Superintendent of Final Disposition in the Bureau of Highways and in 1910, when Judge Denton was elevated to the Bench, he selected Mr. Nuhn to serve in the capacity of Chief Clerk. He is a member of the U. S. L. S. A. Old Mill Division, many organizations, and is president of the Municipal Court Clerk's Association of Queens and Richmond, which he was largely instrumental in organizing.

In 1890, Mr. Nuhn married Elizabeth Daunenhauser, and by her has two children: Ruth and Gertrude.



HON. WILLIAM H. PENDRY

**William H. Pendry**

Alderman William H. Pendry is the senior member of the law firm of Pendry & Pendry, one of the leading law firms of the Ridgewood section and the Eastern District of Brooklyn. The present office, held by Alderman Pendry, is not the first one he has held, as he represented the Twentieth Assembly District of Kings County in the Assembly in 1901 and 1905, where he proved just as active as he is in his present position.

Among the measures put upon the statute books was that relative to the vestibuling of trolley cars; another one was that of regulating the sanitary condition of public bathing houses throughout the State, and revising all the life-saving appliances to be used in such places. Another very important measure passed by him, while a member of the Assembly, was that which compels the railroad people to file any consents of property owners, obtained by them, for the use of the street for railroad purposes, the railroad now being obliged

to record each and every consent obtained by them within sixty days of the date of execution; formerly, no one ever knew, when purchasing property, whether the right of way had been sold by a previous owner or not, and so railroad tracks often appeared on streets where they were little expected.

Although Alderman Pendry is well known as a Republican in politics, yet he is also to be known to be most independent, and has shown the courage of a high order more than once in refusing to vote with his party on what he thought or considered objectionable measures. It has often been said by him that faithfulness to your obligation, as a party man, is not a justification to betray the trust and confidence placed in you by the people when chosen by them for any position as their representative.

Mr. Pendry has had rather a varied experience in life, as after spending his young manhood in England, he made his way across the big pond, seeking life's opportunities in the Dominion of Canada.

A public accountant, an editor, a publisher, he found sufficient opportunity in a material way as a subject of "Our Lady of the Snows;" but he longed for a land where blunt independence of speech was not a subject of toleration only, but one of popular approval, and gradually loosening his Canadian ties, he wended his way to the old City of Brooklyn.

Working hard by day he, nevertheless, found time to take a course in veterinary surgery and, after being duly licensed, he began his practice as a veterinarian. In this new calling he met with marked success and became recognized as one of the foremost veterinarians in the country.

His election to a seat in the lower chamber at Albany as the representative of the Twentieth Assembly District, opened his eyes to the beauties of the law

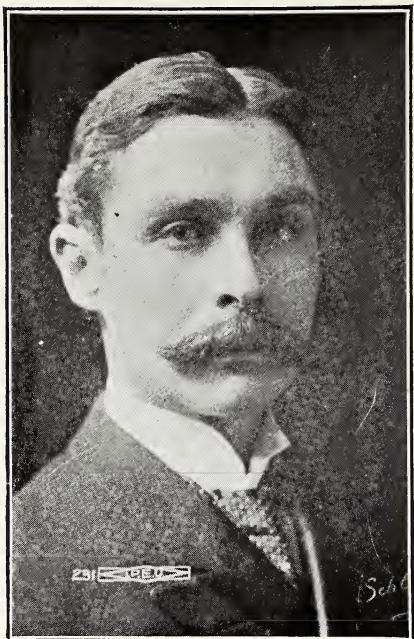
as a science, and though in his fifty-third year, he plunged into the study of it with all the ardor of a young law student. Sickness, political adversity, financial stringency, could not deter him and his name was at last enrolled among the members of the Bar of the State of New York.

The law office of Pendry & Pendry is at 1012 Gates Avenue, near Broadway, Brooklyn, and is said to be one of the busiest law offices of our section, the law library being one of the striking features of his office on entering it.

The other member of the firm is Major Bryer H. Pendry, of the 13th Regiment, N. G., New York.

Mr. Pendry's nomination for Alderman came to him as a great surprise. It was on his return from a three months' trip through Europe that he was informed that he had been selected to take up the fight for his party for Aldermanic honors, and although his Democratic opponent had the endorsement of the Independence League, and was backed up by most influential men of the district, and had the prestige of being vice-chairman of the Board, yet Mr. Pendry demonstrated his popularity by winning out under these conditions. The people apparently were not forgetful of his record as a member of the Assembly.

The measures which he has introduced in the Board of Aldermen have been marked by high constructive ability, close adherence to economics and total disregard of the "inspired" criticisms of those who do the work of the corrupt. Mandatory factory drills, protection of school children while participating in rapid dismissal, installation of drop lights on Bushwick Avenue to make it the finest promenade in the borough, market regulations, Police Department scrutiny; these and many other measures indicate him as being remarkably suited to public office.



HON. MATTHEW J. SMITH

#### **Matthew J. Smith**

Matthew J. Smith, District Attorney of Queens County, has lived in the county all his life, having been born in Long Island City on August 24th, 1867, where he has since resided. His early education was acquired in the public schools. His preliminary education over, he became a student in St. Francis' College, Brooklyn, from which institution he graduated in 1885. Entering Columbia College, he completed the law course in that seat of learning and graduated therefrom in June, 1888, with the degree of LL.B. During this time he had the rare good fortune to come under the tutelage of such eminent instructors and jurists as Professor Theodore W. Dwight and Honorable Charles E. Hughes, former Governor of New York and now one of the Justices of the Su-

preme Court of the United States. Admitted to the Bar in 1889, he became associated with the law firm of which former Judge and present Congressman Henry M. Goldfogle was senior member, and later with the firm of Shepard & Osborne. Previous to opening his own law offices in Long Island City, he rounded out his legal training with the firm of Kenneson, Grain & Alling of New York City.

He was appointed City Magistrate in 1898 by Mayor Van Wyck, and after eight years' service was reappointed for ten years by Mayor McClellan. He resigned December 31st, 1912, in order to assume the duties of District Attorney to which he had been elected in 1911.

District Attorney Smith was chairman of Davren Hall, chairman of First Assembly District Democratic Organization, Queens County Democratic Committee, Queens County Bar Association, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Knights of Columbus and Democratic Club of Queens County. He is also a member of the Business Men's Association of Long Island City. His favorite hobbies are driving and trotting horses.

On June 12th, 1901, District Attorney Smith was married to Helen L. Mulvany by whom he has two children: Helen and Mary Claire.

#### **Edward J. Smith**

Edward J. Smith, LL.B., was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., January 7th, 1884, but has been a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section for the past twenty-three years.

He started his education with the opening of Union Free School No. 9 of Ridgewood, which was then under the principalship of Wm. H. Dumond, since consolidation known as Public School No. 64. He graduated from here June, 1898, with honors in a class of seven, and



HON. EDWARD J. SMITH

entered Jamaica High School October, 1898, where he pursued a four-year classical course and graduated from said High School in June, 1902, obtaining a State Board of Regents Classical Diploma. In October, 1902, he entered New York Law School where, after a two-year course, he graduated in June, 1904, obtaining the Degree of Bachelor of Laws. Thereupon, Mr. Smith took up a clerkship in the law offices of Hon. Michael J. Scanlon, then one of the New York State Charity Commissioners. On May 9th, 1905, he was admitted to the Bar as an Attorney and Counselor at Law of the State of New York. He then opened law offices for the general practice of law in the Ridgewood section.

He is one of the young men who have distinguished themselves in local politics. At the age of twenty-one, he was the candidate of the Democratic Party of Queens County for Member of Assembly. For this office, the Counselor was defeated, owing to a combination formed by the Republican Party and the Municipal Ownership Party, headed by Mr.

Hearst, which combination swept New York City that year.

In November, 1905, Mr. Smith became Secretary to Hon. Joseph J. Sullivan, Commissioner of Public Works, Queens Borough, and is now Chief Clerk of the County Court of Queens County, presided over by Hon. Burt Jay Humphrey. He was appointed as said Chief Clerk from a State Civil Service list on October 1st, 1907, by the then County Clerk, Hon. John Niederstein, with the approval of the County Judge and the then seventeen resident Supreme Court Judges of the Second District.

He is greatly interested in all out door sports, elocution work and the collection of good literature.

He was a member of the first Evergreen Board of Trade, which is now disbanded, and is now an active member of the Ridgewood Democratic Club, for both of which he has repeatedly volunteered legal advice. He is also an active member of the Jamaica High School Alumni Association, the New York Law School Alumni Association, Free and Accepted Masons, Loyal Order of Moose, Benevolent Patriotic Order of Elks, Jr. O. U. A. Mechanics (National), Royal Arcanum, Queens County Bar Association, Second Ward Democratic Association, Jefferson Democratic Club of Ridgewood and Ivanhoe Hook and Ladder Company No. 10 of the Newtown Volunteer Fire Department.

In June, 1908, Mr. Smith married Louise Winters, one of the daughters of Bernhard Winters of Ridgewood. They have one child, Marshall Dwight Jay Smith.

#### Cypress Hills Cemetery

Cypress Hills Cemetery was incorporated under the General Cemetery Act, August 8th, 1848.



HON. FELIX J. SANNER

**Felix J. Sanner**

If home rule for New York City comes shortly, as it no doubt will, no little credit will be due Senator Felix J. Sanner, who during his two terms in the Assembly and three terms in the State Senate, has been continually advocating this progressive and necessary measure.

Aside from his advocacy of home rule Mr. Sanner introduced and through his efforts secured the passage of a bill providing for the payment of two dollars a day to Jurors. He also introduced several bills relative to the conservation of wild life and forests in our State. Along these lines, he has been so active that he now holds the distinguished office of Chairman of the Conservation Committee in the State Senate.

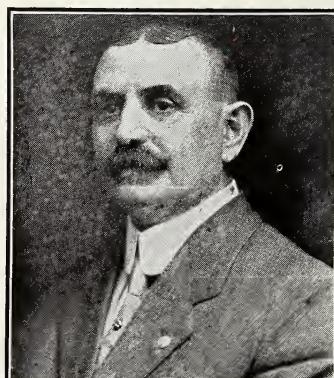
Mr. Felix J. Sanner was born in Cleveland, Ohio, February 9th, 1867. He came to Brooklyn in 1886 and has lived here most of his life. In 1896, he was married to Catherine Becker, and their marriage has been blessed with two boys and two girls. Mr. Sanner is a

member of the Arion Singing Society, Schwaebischer Singing Society, Foresters of America, Elks Lodge No. 22, and Ridgewood Board of Trade.

**Jacob Schiffendecker**

Jacob Schiffendecker, Democrat, who represents the 19th Assembly District of Kings County in the Assembly, was born in old New York City October 23d, 1862. He received his education in public schools of that city and Brooklyn and then took up a private commercial course. At the age of 16 he was a shoe salesman for his father, who at that time was a large shoe manufacturer. In 1885, he helped to organize Bartenders' Union, Local No. 70, of Brooklyn, N. Y., which today has a membership of 600 and is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and Bartenders' International League of America, Hotel and Restaurant Employes and the International Alliance. He is at present the President of the Union, having been elected for several consecutive terms without opposition.

Mr. Schiffendecker was elected Assemblyman in 1910 and 1911, 1912, and has served on the most important commit-



HON. JACOB SCHIFFENDECKER

tees of the Assemblymen during these years.

He is a member of the Montauk Benevolent Society, Charles Merlet Benevolent Society, Court Arlington 246, Foresters of America; Arie 393, Fraternal Order of Eagles of Brooklyn; Elks No. 22, of Brooklyn; Brooklyn Central Labor Union, member of the Kings County Democratic Committee, 19th Assembly District Democratic Club, member of the Perry Victory Centennial, which takes place at Buffalo, N. Y., September 2 to 6, 1913.

### William Schnitzpan

It is interesting to note, in view of the probable coalition of all anti-Tammany bodies in the approaching municipal campaign, that the Republican leader of the Twentieth Assembly District, former Municipal Justice William Schnitzpan, who has been a strong advocate in support of the best men in his party for public office ever since his advent into polities, was one of a committee of forty staunch Republicans from several States of the Union that stormed Washington in 1904, to institute an organized movement looking to the renomination of Theodore Roosevelt for the Presidency, at a time when the indications were not wanting to lead the country to believe that Mark Hanna was gradually getting control of the situation in behalf of his own candidacy. History tells the success of that timely intervention. No more public-spirited citizen than ex-Judge Schnitzpan lives in the upper section of this borough. He has for years taken an active interest in all civic movements looking to the betterment of the borough's conditions. New schools, new playgrounds and the very important subway propositions have found in him a tireless advocate.

Born in the Fourteenth Ward, former Justice Schnitzpan allied himself with



HON. WILLIAM SCHNITZPAN

the Republican Party as soon as he was old enough to vote. In the old city of Brooklyn in the fall of 1895, he was honored by the City Convention with the nomination for Civil Justice for the Third District; a distinction which was not generally sought, by reason of the long established Democratic majority in the old city. He entered the campaign, however, with enthusiasm, determined to leave no stone unturned to win, and when the votes were counted on election night he had the proud satisfaction of finding himself the only nominee of the so-called Worth element of his party on the city ticket elected. Brooklyn never knew a better qualified man for the duties of the presiding office of the lower courts. Before the close of his four-year term, Civil Justices, by an act of the Legislature, became Municipal Justices, subject to election by districts, instead of by a vote throughout the city. He lost a renomination only after one of the hottest conventions Brooklyn has ever known, Thomas Williams finally corral-

ing enough votes to decide the situation in William's favor. In 1901, the ex-Justice was defeated by a small number of votes for Senator in the Ninth District, and later, handicapped by a Democratic year, he lost his race for a Congressional seat in the Fourth District. State Comptroller Gans appointed him a Transfer Tax Appraiser, a position from which, despite its Civil Service barriers, he was removed by the Democrats in 1912, a wrong which the Courts are now considering, and later, in 1912, President Taft made him an Assistant U. S. Appraiser of Merchandise of the Port of New York. His brief term in the latter office expired with the advent of President Wilson's administration.

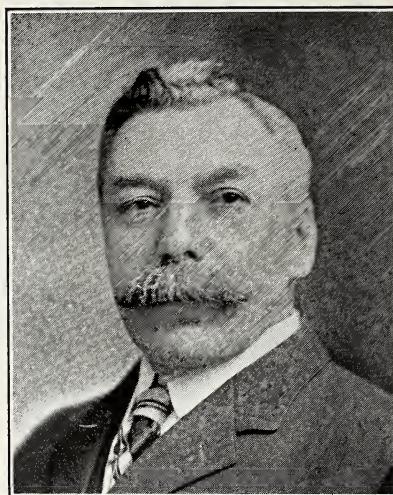
#### **Gustav Schumacher**

Last of the old-time judges who, with the Supervisor and the Town Clerk, practically administered the affairs of Newtown before consolidation, Gustav Schumacher is still one of the leading citizens of the Metropolitan or East Williamsburg sections of Greater Ridgewood.

Born in Wuertemberg, Germany, May 11th, 1855, he followed his older brothers to this country in 1865. In 1874, he came to live with his uncle, then proprietor of the old Metropolitan Park and Hotel and Flushing and Metropolitan Avenues.

He became a piano maker and followed this trade for some time. He took an active interest in local affairs and was instrumental in co-operation with George Todd in getting the Post Office Department to open the East Williamsburg Post Office, of which Mrs. Todd was the first post mistress.

In 1894, he was elected to serve a four-year term as Judge, to succeed his brother Albert, who died in 1893.



HON GUSTAV SCHUMACHER

He built the house in which is his present home, at Metropolitan Avenue, to serve as both his residence and as a court house and held night sessions for the convenience of farmers and others. By the act of consolidation, he was out of office before the expiration of his term. Judge Schumacher has always been a Republican. He was a candidate for Alderman on the Seth Low ticket, which failed to carry this section of the City.

On November 22d, 1877, Mr. Schumacher married Wilhelmina Sillinger of New York City. His son, Albert G., married Jennette Lowrey, in 1910 and lives at 170 Foxall Street.

The Judge is associated with George L. Stamm, well known New York lawyer. He is a member of Schiller Lodge No. 304, F. and A. M.; Arion, Schwae-bischer and Metropolitan Singing Societies, Provident Association of Newtown and is the oldest member living of the Old Canstatter Volksfest Verein of New York.



HON. CHARLES H. HAUBERT

**Charles H. Haubert**

Charles H. Haubert has distinguished himself, not only as a successful lawyer, and as a civic worker, but in fraternal and political circles.

He was born in New York City May 19th, 1873 and received his education at Public School No. 7 in Manhattan and at the New York Law School. At the age of fourteen he entered the law office of Frederick A. Snow, a Wall Street lawyer, and in 1894 was admitted to the Bar.

For more than twelve years he has been the attorney for the 28th Ward Board of Trade.

In 1903, he was the Democratic candidate for Alderman and was only defeated by about 500 votes, faring better than any other Democratic candidate on the local ticket that year. In 1907, he was the Independence League candidate for Municipal Court Judge and again, though unsuccessful, made a splendid showing. In 1902, he was considered for the Senatorial nomination.

He is now Great Junior Sagamore of

the State organization of Red men and is prominent in the National Councils of that great fraternity.

He is a member of Montauk Tribe 198, I. O. R. M.; Montauk Haymakers' Association, Andrew Jackson Democratic and 22nd Assembly District Democratic Clubs and of the Bushwick Schnorrer Club. He has been a member of the Turn Verein of the Eastern District for many years and is actively interested in athletics and baseball.

In 1898, he married Irene Berger and has a son, Charles F., now a lad of fourteen. His home is at 1335 Jefferson Avenue and his office at 398 Central Avenue.

**Senator Bernard Patten**

Bernard Patten, Senator of the Third Senatorial District of Queens, was born at Worcestershire, England, September 29th, 1881. He left school at the early age of ten years and after working for several years in the cotton mills and factories, he migrated to the United States in 1898 and since attaining majority, has assisted the Democratic party in every campaign.

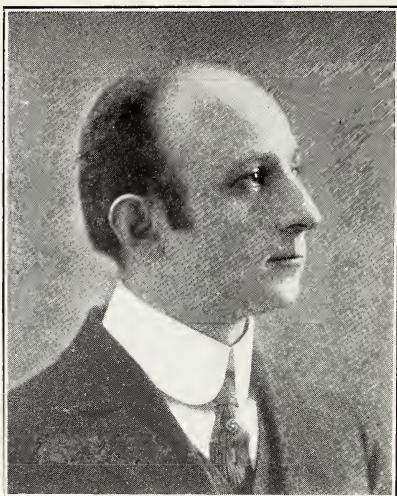
He is a member of Knights of Columbus, District Deputy B. P. O. E., Queens Borough, 878; Sons of St. Patrick, Borough of Queens, and a number of political clubs.

Outside of politics, the Senator's favorite hobby is reading classical literature and he also is an enthusiastic base ball fan.

Senator Patten was elected Senator of the Third Senatorial District, Borough of Queens, in 1913.

**Myrtle Avenue Plank Road**

On December 12th, 1853, Myrtle Avenue was opened as a plank road and extended from Broadway, Brooklyn, to Richmond Hill.



MR. JOSEPH J. METZGER

**Joseph J. Metzger**

Counselor Joseph J. Metzger was born in Brooklyn, but is a resident of the Greater Ridgewood section for the last twenty years. He took up law soon after leaving school and graduated from the New York University in 1905. Since then he has established an extensive practice among builders and real estate brokers and is at the present time trustee in a case involving over \$100,000 worth of real estate in Queens Borough.

Counselor is lecturer in the Foresters of America organization, vice-president of the Washington Relief Circle and a member of Henry Ward Beecher No. 82.

He is a great enthusiast of water sports and maintains a launch at Jamaica Bay.

**Leonard Ruoff**

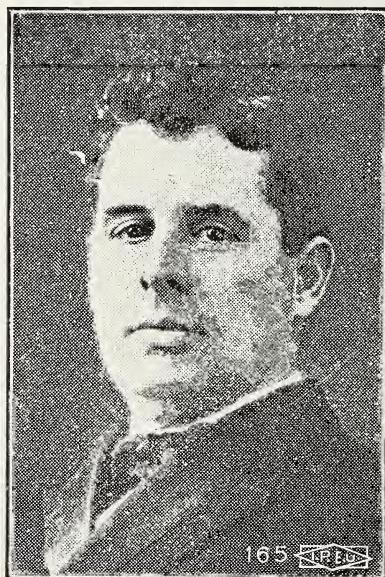
Leonard Ruoff, County Clerk of Queens County, was born in the old Eighteenth Ward of Brooklyn in 1870. Although the County Clerk is at present identified with the Woodhaven section,

his parents were old-time residents of the Middle Village section of Greater Ridgewood. The County Clerk resided there from 1882 to 1891.

In 1891, he married Juliana Bacher. There are no children.

County Clerk's Ruoff's organizing ability has been shown not only in politics, but in a civic way. He organized the Broadway Business Men's Association of Ozone Park, and the Andrew Jackson Democratic Club of Ozone Park, L. I., and is a charter member of Ozone Park Board of Trade, Inc.; a retired member of the Americus Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, of Ozone Park, Woodhaven Exempt Firemen's Association and a number of German, Fraternal and Singing Societies. He is at present a member of the Executive Committee and County Committee of the Democratic Party of Queens County.

Mr. Ruoff served as Coroner of Queens for two terms.



HON. LEONARD RUOFF



HON. ALEXANDER F. WACKER

**Alexander F. Wacker**

Ex-Alderman Alexander F. Wacker, the long established florist of 1344 Myrtle Avenue, was born November 20, 1867, in a little house built by his father, Adolph, on the same site as is still occupied by his store. This spot has thus been a flower market for more than half a century, as it was in 1858 that Mr. Wacker's father, who had come from Hamburg, Germany, in 1850, began to cultivate a couple of acres of the old Stockholm farm, fronting on Myrtle and Hamburg Avenues. Adolf Wacker died in 1888, leaving a widow (who survived him only three years) and a son and two daughters: Alexander F., Henrietta, now Mrs. Charles Hilbert, and Bertha.

Alexander F. Wacker went into business with his father, opening a branch store at 392 Fulton Street in 1889.

He had always taken an active interest in polities and was elected Alderman for a two year term in 1900. In 1912, he was the Progressive candidate for Senator.

For sketch of Municipal Justice Alfred Denton, Ex-Sheriff Joseph Meyerrose and Assistant District Attorney Frank Adel, see "Old Families." For Carl Berger, see Chapter on Builders

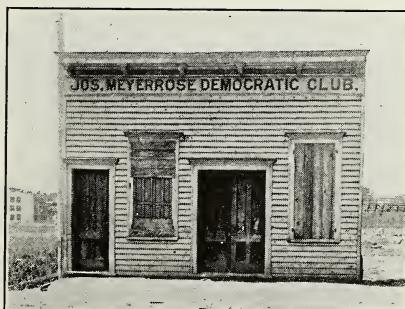
He is a member of innumerable clubs. In 1887, he married Emma Schmidt and has a daughter, Elenora, now wife of William Knabenshuh (nephew of Pastor Knabenshuh).

**Bernhard Winter**

Bernhard Winter, city foreman in the Highway Department of Queens, was born in New York City and came to Greater Ridgewood in 1888, establishing an extensive business as a painting contractor. Later he went into the hotel business in Middle Village, and since then Mr. Winter has served in various city positions.

He is a member of the Elks, Queensboro Lodge No. 878; Woodmen of the World, Evergreen Camp No. 132; Jr. O. U. A. M., Franklin Lodge No. 16; Ridgewood Democratic Club, Second Ward Democratic Club, Third Assembly District Democratic Association, Unity Democratic Club, Volunteer Firemen, Hook and Ladder Company No. 10, and the Ivanhoe Hook and Ladder Company, of which Mr. Winter is secretary.

Mr. Winter married Bertha Meister in 1887 and by her he has two daughters, Ida and Louise (Mrs. Edward Smith).



OLD LANDMARK OF EARLY POLITICAL DAYS

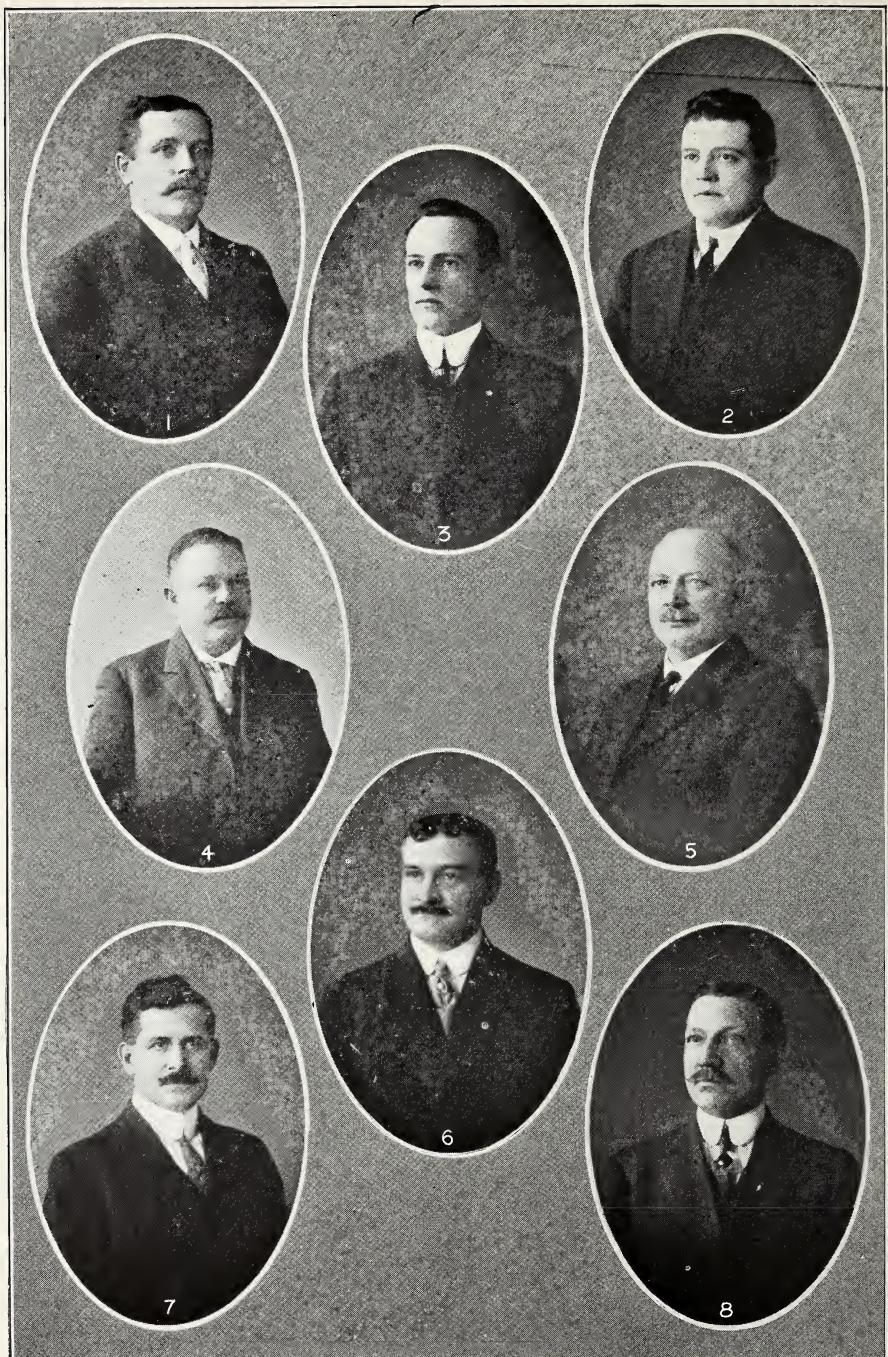
This club house stood on the Meyerrose Farm, on Woodward Avenue as late as 1912, when it was removed to make room for the Mathews' building operations



WYCKOFF HEIGHTS TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION—OFFICERS AND  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Top row (left to right): John Lapp, Chairman, Membership Committee; Chas. F. Werner, Chairman, Taxes and Assessment Committee; W. B. Rosencrans, M.D., Chairman Health and Educational Committee; Henry Werner (ex-President), Chairman, Legislation, Press and Speakers Committee; Adam E. Fisher (ex-President), Chairman, Building Committee. Middle Row: A. B. Marks, Chairman, Lighting and Water Supply; August Beyer, Attorney; J. Markt, sergeant-at-arms; Jos. Rind, Treasurer; P. J. Cahill, Chairman, Streets and Sewers Committee; F. J. Zoeblein, Chairman, Bridges and Parks Committee. Sitting: Geo. Lederle, Secretary and Secretary of Complaints; Christian Schoerry, First Vice-President; Chas. Mueller, President; Chas. J. Schmidt, Second Vice-President; Henry Scheidemann, Financial Secretary.

**PART IX**  
**PROMINENT CIVIC WORKERS**



PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE RIDGEWOOD HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOCIATION

Biographies will be found elsewhere in this volume

1—Mr. John Adelman	4—Mr. John Merk	7—Mr. Nicholas Weisensee
2—Mr. Joseph Zink	5—Mr. Herman Gohlinghorst	8—Mr. J. Charles Steuben
3—Mr. August Bohnemann	6—Mr. Henry Bolde	

## CHAPTER XII

### PROMINENT CIVIC WORKERS

#### **Paul A. Ajas**

Paul A. Ajas, one of the most enterprising, enthusiastic and tireless civic workers in this section and who has contributed to the initiation and success of many local undertakings, is perhaps best known through his identification with the Ridgewood Board of Trade and to the reputation for doing things which that organization enjoys, he has largely contributed.

Mr. Ajas was born at Seix, in Ariège, France, August 28th, 1864. In 1887, on January 30th, he married Catherine Winters and has two children: Reine E. and Mercedes L., now 16 and 9 years of age, respectively. Mr. Ajas has been the janitor-engineer of Public School No. 123 for several years. Not content with maintaining his high record of efficiency with the Board of Education, he has distinguished himself for his voluntary services in the furtherance of school ideals, extension of their facilities and their higher utilization.

For his own school he has earned widespread renown, because of the beautiful gardens that he has managed to develop in the limited space surrounding the school building.

He has also distinguished himself through his interest in the inculcation of patriotism among the children of our public schools. Largely under his inspiration the Ridgewood Board of Trade has presented handsome silk American flags, with appropriate ceremonial exercises, to Public Schools Nos. 123, 86, 88 and others.

The children of Public School No. 123 as a result are especially keen to patriotic Fourth of July celebrations and for Arbor Day celebrations and other occasions that manifest the awakened love of country and love of nature, for much of which Mr. Ajas and his fellow members of the Ridgewood Board of Trade are largely responsible.

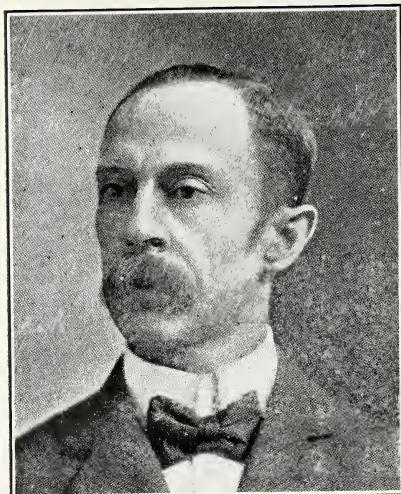
Mr. Ajas has also been an efficient leader, not only in the efforts for the further utilization of our schools as recreation centres, social centres, culture centres, etc., but he was among the foremost civic workers whose efforts must be credited with the building of the new Ridgewood or Bushwick High School, as well as the recreation centre and public playground there and the evening High School for young people and adults at P. S. 123 on Irving avenue, where not only the usual academic courses are offered, but courses in drawing, shop-work, dressmaking, cooking and English to foreigners.

Mr. Ajas is a charter member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade and has served as secretary for two years and as president for two years—in 1909 and 1910.

Upon the termination of his second year as president, he was presented with a magnificent diamond ring and a set of engrossed resolutions, expressing the high esteem of his fellow members and as a testimony of their recognition of his great services to the Board in its work for the community.

At the last election, Mr. Ajas was again made secretary to the Board, which position he now holds.

Mr. Ajas' favorite recreations are yachting and fishing, and he is a member of the Jamaica Bay Yacht Club and of the Bay View Yacht Club, as well as of the 19th Assembly District Democratic Association.



MR. JARED J. CHAMBERS

**Jared J. Chambers**

Jared J. Chambers, President of the Twenty-eighth Ward Taxpayers' Association, whom Magistrate John F. Hylan recently characterized as "the most aggressive president of any civic organization in the borough," was born at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., October 16th, 1853, the son of William and Ann (Ripley) Chambers. The former was among the "Fourty-niners" who crossed the plains to the gold fields of California.

He came to Brooklyn with his parents when he was ten years of age. A couple of years later they moved to that part of the Bushwick section (now reckoned as a part of Greater Ridgewood, of which he has been a resident ever since).

He was educated at Public School No. 24 and at Cloghorn's Business College, where he was graduated in 1877.

He has always taken an active part in the campaigns of the Republican party since his affiliation with the old Frank William's Battery of Williamsburg, when he was but eighteen years of age. During the Blane presidential campaign,

he was president of one of the largest campaign clubs in the city. He was one of the founders of the Union Republican Club and has been a delegate to many County and State conventions.

In 1889, Mr. Chambers ran for Alderman, in a district which at that time comprised nine wards and which was normally Democratic by almost four thousand. Although defeated, Mr. Chambers led his ticket and was only about one thousand votes behind his successful Democratic opponent.

In 1897, he was appointed Chief Clerk by Police Justice Brenner and reappointed the following year. In 1898, he was elected Secretary to the Board of City Magistrates and served for two years. In 1902, he was appointed an Accountant in the License Bureau of Brooklyn, a position he still retains.

During the campaign of Henry A. Meyer for Mayor of Brooklyn, Mr. Chambers was his private secretary.

If, as has been said, an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man, then surely the history of the Twenty-eighth Ward Taxpayers' Association is but a record of Mr. Chambers' leadership in securing the many needed improvements obtained by this association.

Mr. Chambers married on February 19th, 1886, Cornelia Benson, of Bushwick, and has three daughters: Florence, Ella and Laura, all of whom are graduates of the Teachers' Training School.

Mr. Chambers is a member of many societies and an officer of the Sunday School and other societies connected with the Greene Avenue Baptist Church, of which he has been a member for many years.

**Frank Dedreux**

Thirty-six civic and social organizations is the record of Mr. Frank Dedreux's activity and popularity, and his interest in all these societies is main-



MR. FRANK DEDREUX

tained aside from his regular business routine. This is certainly a popularity that few are able to maintain. Though not an immediate resident of our section, Mr. Dedreux's business as a decorator for the last twenty-three years has closely identified him with our activities. He was the official decorator of Ridgewood Park and he has decorated many of our churches, halls, public buildings, etc., for these many years.

Mr. Dedreux was born in East New York, on the 30th of June, 1868, and has lived in the city all his life. In 1890, he was married to Miss May Campbell, by whom he has five children: three girls and two boys.

Mr. Dedreux is a man of artistic temperament and through the practical application of his talent to his business, he has won remarkable success, although no small share of his success is due also, we venture, to his agreeable sociable disposition and friendly manner.

### **August Bohnemann**

The extensive business that August Bohnemann has worked up in the eight years that he is in the section is due entirely to the close application that he has given to it. The business, which is housed in one of the old landmarks of the Heights section—the Stroh property, is growing rapidly and is now extended over a wider territory than ever before and is growing all the time.

Mr. Bohnemann was born in Brooklyn in 1883 and came to the Ridgewood section in 1905. In the same year he married Emma Kostler. There are no children.

Mr. Bohnemann is a member of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association and has been the chairman of various of its committees, doing effective work for the association; a member of the German-American Democratic League, John Gutman Democratic Association, F. and A. M., Star of Hope, No. 430, and E. D. Turn Verein. He has always been fond of horses and animals and makes these his pets.

### **Daniel Ebert**

Daniel Ebert, paint jobber, was born in the old Williamsburg section in 1878, and came to Ridgewood in 1904, establishing the first paint jobbing business in the section after a long experience in this line.

Mr. Ebert early adopted a policy of progressive and extensive advertising that has made his business known in and out of the section; using fences, barns, sides of houses and newspaper advertising in his publicity campaign, and selling the manufacturers, builders and paint consumers the quality of goods asked for at the very best market prices, also rendering practical and expert advice as to their proper uses, and he credits his



MR. DANIEL EBERT

extensive business to this progressive policy.

Very many of the paints sold are the special manufacture of Mr. Ebert. Mr. Ebert is a stockholder in the Ridgewood Times Company.

At the same time that Mr. Ebert has been applying himself to business, he has given considerable of his time unselfishly to civic activities. He is chairman of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, member of the Local School Board, District No. 44; Baltic Lodge, F. and A. M., No. 284; Wm. Buss Benevolent Society, Old New Yorkers' Benevolent Society, Paint Jobbers' Association, etc. Mr. Ebert was the instigator of the street paving improvement on Onderdonk Avenue; better lighting facilities for the Heights, and was chairman of the Committee for securing correct house numbers for the section. He is chairman of the German-American Democratic League of Queens.

Mr. Ebert's daughter Dolly was voted the most popular girl in the great Ridgewood Times Popularity Contest in 1908.

### **Joseph Geiger**

Mr. Joseph Geiger has the proud distinction of being the organizer of the Evergreen Board of Trade. He was its first treasurer and has served in this office ever since.

Mr. Geiger was born in Baden, Germany, and came to America when twelve years old. At the age of seventeen he came to Ridgewood, establishing a barber shop at 84 Wyckoff avenue. His next move was in 1887 to Myrtle and St. Nicholas avenues, on the point which was at one time occupied by the Ridgewood Times. In 1891, he moved across the street to the private house now occupied by the Reimers family, and in 1894 he moved to 1108 Cypress Ave.

Mr. Geiger was married to Tilly Schultheis in St. Brigid's Church by Father McCloskey in 1891, and by her he has four children, Joseph, Peter, May and Josephine. Mr. Geiger was concerned with school matters prior to consolidation and has since always shown himself an active worker for the betterment of the section.



MR. JOSEPH GEIGER



MR. JOSEPH HARTMAN

**Joseph Hartman**

Joseph Hartman was one of the original organizers of the effective fight made by the Wyckoff Avenue Property Owners against the proposed "El" through Wyckoff Avenue, which, Mr. Hartman and the other owners contended, would result in serious depreciation of property, due to the unsanitary and bad social conditions that are always encouraged to develop where elevated structures are.

He has been president of the Wyckoff Property Owners' Association since its inception, and in that capacity has done credit to himself and his constituents.

Mr. Hartman was born in Seavina, Austria, March 18th, 1863, and came to America in 1893 and has been a resident in New York City and our section since.

He married Miss Rose Newfeld on April 20th, 1891, and by her has five children: four girls and one boy. He is a Free Mason 445, Cascius, Brooklyn.

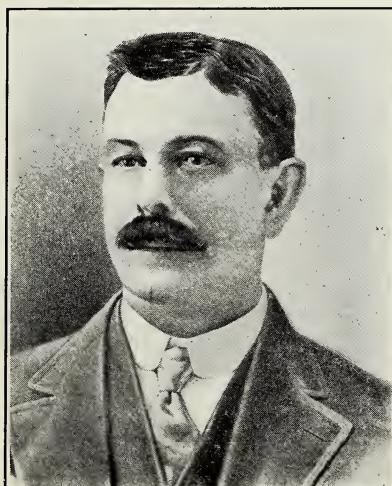
His progressiveness is shown in that he was the first business man on Wyckoff Avenue to install electric signs.

**Charles Hummel**

Among the early civic workers of our section, Charles Hummel's name stands out among the most prominent.

It was in 1904 that Mr. Hummel was elected Chairman of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, and this office he held until 1908, when he voluntarily relinquished the chairmanship. He was presented with a loving cup by the members in recognition of the faithful work that he accomplished during his long and honored term of office.

Mr. Hummel has the distinction also of being one of the organizers of the Wyckoff Republican Club of Queens and the Washington Republican Club of the 22d Ward of Brooklyn, and in 1910 he was honored with the Republican nomination for Assemblyman for the Third Assembly District of Queens. His work and accomplishments in our section in a civic way will always stand as a monument to him.



MR. CHARLES HUMMEL

**Henry F. Jantzen**

Probably few men get the great amount of enjoyment out of civic affairs that Henry F. Jantzen does. Mr. Jantzen came to Ridgewood in 1905, buying the property and grocery business at the corner of Wyckoff avenue and Cornelia street. He immediately joined the Evergreen Board of Trade, and once his interest was demonstrated, he was assigned to committee work, and in this kind of work he has found his hobby. He assisted in the agitation directed against the Evergreen Horse Market and was active in connection with securing the many improvements that this part of Greater Ridgewood now enjoys.

Mr. Jantzen was born in Hanover, Germany. He married Adelaide M. Grotheer, by whom he has two sons and two daughters: Frederick, William, Elsie and Emily. He is a member of Royal Arcanum, DeLong Council No. 725; Knights and Ladies of Honor; Ludwig Fuerbach No. 1630; Evergreen Board of Trade and many other lodges and fraternities.



MR. HENRY F. JANTZEN

**Henry B. Lentz**

Henry B. Lentz, who, until a year ago, conducted the pharmacy which Fred Sandman now has, at Myrtle Avenue and George Street, was born in Newark, N. J., in 1876.

Mr. Lentz went to Germany as an infant and received his education in the Dukedom of Oldenburg in the northern part of Germany. He came back to America in 1890 and later passed the examination of the State Board of Pharmacy.

Previous to buying the property and establishing the pharmacy at Myrtle Avenue and George Street, he conducted a pharmacy at Hancock Street and Evergreen Avenue, which he later sold.

Mr. Lentz was one of the principal organizers of the Ridgewood Park Board of Trade in 1908, and for the third year has been its president and one year served as secretary.

Mr. Lentz is a member of the Kings County Pharmaceutical Association, Brooklyn Pharmaceutical Association, of which he is President; Ridgewood Park Board of Trade, Jefferson Democratic Club.

In 1900, he married Barbara Zaengle, by whom he has one child, Bernard Henry.

**Population Statistics**

From October, 1911, to July, 1912, 790 new buildings were erected, accommodating about 2300 new families; two new theatres, three moving picture shows, two factories and 113 new stores.

The Federal census for 1910 recorded a population of 111,000 inhabitants in our section and the post office records for March, 1912, show a population averaging about 120,000, an increase of about 9,000 souls since January, 1911.



MR. EDSON LAWRENCE

**Edson Lawrence**

Edson Lawrence was born May 22d, 1839, and is, at the age of 74, as keenly interested and as alert and active in matters of public concern as most men might be at half his age.

He was a big factor in the controversy between Kings and Queens Counties regarding the responsibilities of each county for sewer conditions, which resulted finally in the building of the great St. Nicholas and Myrtle Avenue sewers by the two counties.

He was a candidate for Congress in 1905, and while defeated by the candidate of the dominant party that year, made a creditable campaign and a good showing.

Mr. Lawrence is a direct descendant of the famous Captain Samuel Lawrence, whose "Don't give up the ship" is one of our historic treasures. The commission of Captain Lawrence, issued in 1778, by George Governor Clinton, is in his possession.

He was born in the same house at

Cross River, Westchester County, N.Y., in which his grandfather, who fought in the War of the Revolution, was born.

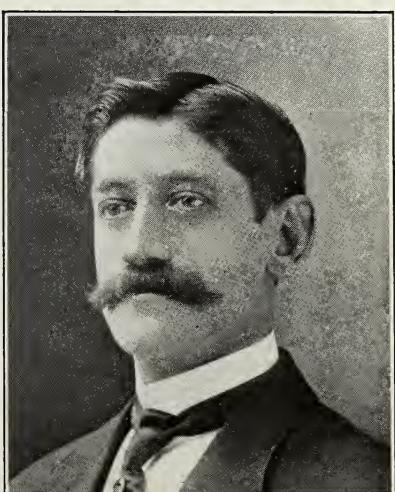
**Charles Mueller**

Charles Mueller, president of the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association and real estate broker of 290 Ralph Street, was born in Germany June 2d, 1875. He came here with his parents while he was yet a child, and grew up in Manhattan.

October 15th, 1901, he married Wilhelmina Wachter, of Williamsburg.

Mr. Mueller came to the Ridgewood section from Williamsburg about five years ago and at once identified himself with civic work.

His valuable services in the Wyckoff Taxpayers' Association were quickly recognized by his election to the Vice-Presidency in 1910. In 1911, he became President of this organization and was re-elected for a second term in 1912. Among the undertakings with which his name is associated in the public mind



MR. CHARLES MUELLER

are the opposition to an elevated railroad on Wyckoff Avenue and his efficient aid in raising funds for the Ridgewood Day Nursery.

He is a member of numerous organizations.

Aside from his keen interest in civic work and his Masonic affiliations (in which Order it is his great ambition to make the Commandery), he is fond of fishing and of music and enjoys entertaining friends at his home.

#### **Franklin W. Vail**

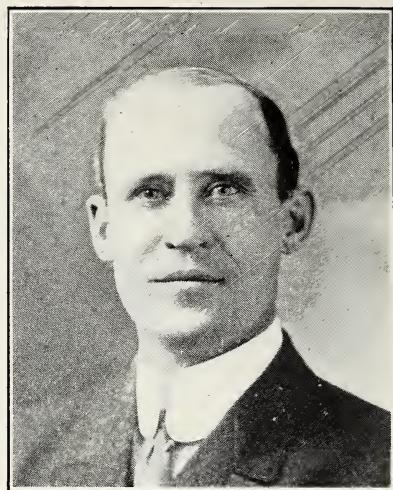
Franklin W. Vail, contracting builder and at present chairman of the Evergreen Board of Trade, was born in Brooklyn and came to the Evergreen section in 1892.

Mr. Vail has always taken a very earnest and active part in civic affairs and was early identified first with the Evergreen Taxpayers' Association and later with the Evergreen Board of Trade.

He married Sophia Burkly, daughter of an old family in the Evergreen section, and by her has two children. He is a member of the Templars, F. and A. M.; Heptahs, Jr. O. U. A. M.; Glendale Council No. 72; the Social Union, and is president of the Evergreen Board of Trade.

Mr. Vail's interest in church work is well known. He organized the Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church and is its secretary. Also, he is a delegate to the South classes on Long Island. He was instrumental in inducing Pastor Israel, at that time at Jameson, Iowa, to accept the call of the Dutch Reformed Church. He organized the first Young People's Society, which later became and is still known as the Social Union. Mr. Vail received the contract for and built the parsonage of this church, and in 1912 donated a bell for the church.

It might be interesting to note that the



MR. FRANKLIN W. VAIL

residence of Mr. Vail on Smith Street is located on the line of two old farms, the DeBevoise and Ratjen farms. This house was built by Mr. Vail and was the first house built on Smith street (now Decatur street).

#### **Henry Werner**

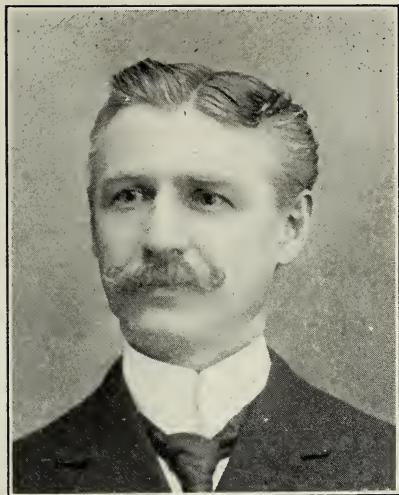
There are few men in this or any other community who have rendered so much, so earnest, so enthusiastic, so long-sustained, unselfish and unrewarded public service as has Henry Werner.

Mr. Werner was born in New York City November 30th, 1861.

As a young man he became interested in Turn Verein work. In 1886, he organized the Central Turn Verein.

While a resident of Bradley Beach, N. J., he organized a fire department and also served a term as Councilman.

He returned to Brooklyn in 1899 and at once became an active and influential member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade until he was asked by a committee of citizens who were facing a



MR. HENRY WERNER

heavy assessment to accept the presidency of the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association, a new organization, founded under his leadership. He served as president of this association during the first two years of its existence and built it up to a membership of more than 600 in that brief time.

Mr. Werner is a member of the Ridgewood Heights Improvement Association, 28th Ward Taxpayers' Association, Bushwick Council No. 1327, R. A.; Garment Cutters' Union No. 10 and Shirt Cutters' Union No. 221.

On September 15th, 1885, Mr. Werner married Katherine H. Kellings of New York City. He has two sons: Charles and Harry, and a daughter, Hannah.

#### Post Office Superintendents

The first superintendent of Post Office Station "J," Wyckoff Avenue, was James T. Halloran, now at Station "S," who proved himself a very efficient postmaster. He was succeeded by Walter F. Smith, who in turn was followed by Edw. F. Thomsen.

In 1912, Mr. Thomsen was succeeded by Mr. Levens, who is in charge of the station at the present time.

#### Frank C. White

Frank C. White, president of the Citizens' Improvement Association, was born in New York City September 17th, 1882. Mr. White's deep interest in civic affairs and his keen sympathy for the property owners of the Evergreen section, whom he saw unfairly treated in the matter of improvements, led him to organize the Citizens' Improvement Association, which has been the means of securing quite a number of needed improvements and he was instrumental in securing relief from the flooded condition of Cypress Avenue.

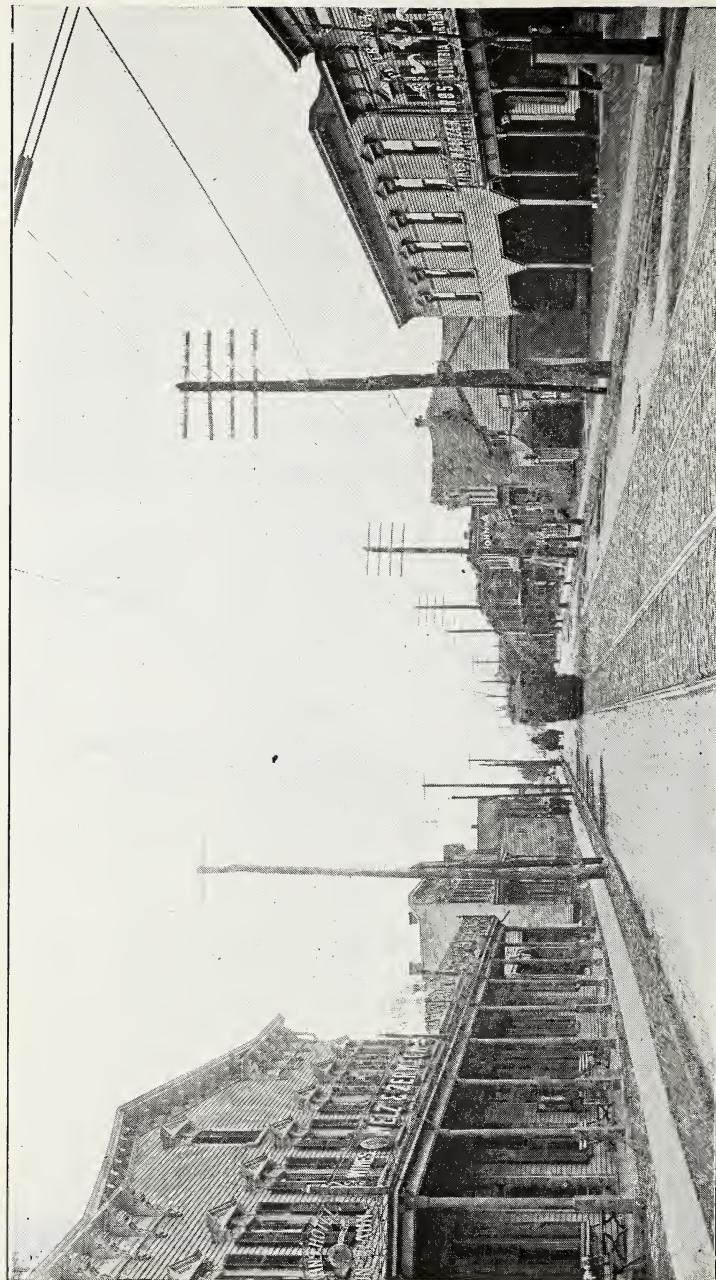
In 1910, Mr. White married Madeline Darmstadt of Brooklyn and there is one child, Albert Francis White.

Mr. White has been president of the Citizens' Improvement Association two terms and is a member of Franklin Council No. 16, Jr. O. U. A. M.



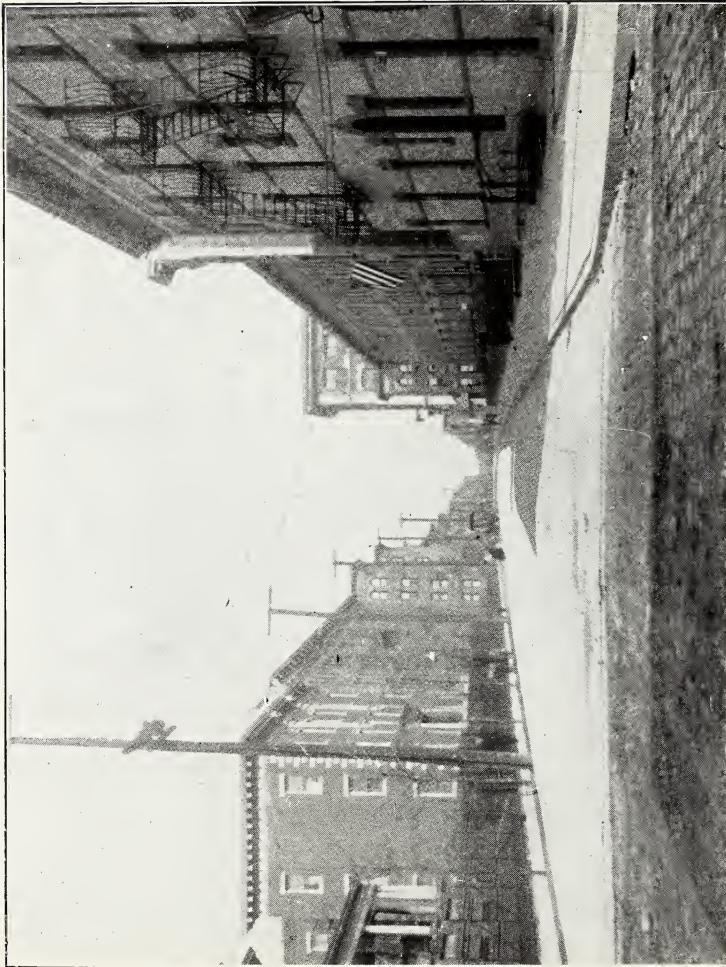
MR. FRANK C. WHITE

SCENE ON METROPOLITAN AVENUE NEAR COOPER AVENUE



## **PART X**

### **PROFESSIONAL MEN OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD**



BLEECKER STREET, LOOKING FROM ST. NICHOLAS AVENUE  
Showing part of Bethany Deaconess Hospital and Sister's Home on left

## CHAPTER XIII

### PROFESSIONAL MEN OF GREATER RIDGEWOOD



WILLIAM F. BOZENHARDT, M.D.

#### William F. Bozenhardt

Dr. William F. Bozenhardt was born in New York City June 11th, 1883. His early education was received at Public School No. 40, after which he was graduated from the DeWitt Clinton High School and in 1905 from the Cornell University Medical School.

He served on the staff of the German Hospital in 1906 and 1907.

In April, 1907, he married Violet C. McNaughton, of Pennsylvania, and opened his office in the conveniently situated location, 50 Forest Avenue, corner of Bleeker Street, where he still resides. He has a little son, Frederick, who is now four years of age.

Dr. Bozenhardt is a member of Court Newtown, No. 301, Foresters of America; Long Island Medical Society, Kings County Medical Society and of the American Medical Society.

#### Curtis Classen

Dr. Curtis Classen, of 1327 Greene Avenue, was born in New York City August 31st, 1877. He was graduated at Bellville (N. J.) High School and at the Cooper Institute Scientific Department and the New York College of Pharmacy.

In 1900, he purchased from Wicke and Wesch the drug store at the corner of Knickerbocker, Greene and Myrtle Aves. He took up medicine and graduated from Bellevue Medical College in 1905.

During his second year at the medical college, he was appointed Professor of Pharmacy and Therapeutics.

He is a member of the Merchants Lodge No. 709, F. and A. M.; Brooklyn Medical Society, Kings County Pharmaceutical Society, Deutscher Apotheker Mutual Hospital Society and of the Nu Sigma Nu of New York University.

In 1900, he married Miss Anna Brickell of New York City.



CURTIS CLASSEN, M.D.

**Dr. Henry F. Eichacker**

Dr. Henry F. Eichacker, better known locally as the philosopher physician of our section, was born in Malstadt-Saarbruecken in 1858.

After having passed the Gymnasium in Saarbruecken, he entered upon a pharmaceutical career in Germany. Serving in that capacity for several years, he entered the chemical works of his uncle in St. Avold and Boulain as chemist.

Having completed military service in the German Army, the doctor represented the factories of his uncle in France and Belgium until 1882, when he came to this country.

In 1886, Dr. Eichacker took his degree of Ph.G. in the College of Pharmacy in New York. In 1890, he took his degree as M.D. in Columbia College.

By his first wife, Miss Clara Meyer, he has two sons, who are now studying Medicine: Henry Charles and Edward George.

By his second wife, Miss Edna L. Terrell, of an old Long Island family, the doctor has four children: Robert William, Richard Jean-Pierre, James Clinton and Helen Francisca.

The doctor's hobbies are abstract and concrete philosophy. Of the latter, astronomy, physics, physiology, biology, chemistry and electricity are specialties in which the doctor excels.

In the branches of abstract philosophy, such as higher jurisprudence, church history and religious philosophy, psychology and ethics, the doctor's knowledge has won him high distinction.

The doctor's pride is his large library, perhaps the largest in Brooklyn, as far as quality is concerned, and his collection of antique and modern arms. He is a total abstainer from alcohol in any form, but likes a good cigar, good horses, a nice garden and last, but not least, wife and family.

**Louis Frederick Licht**

Dr. Licht, of 65 Forest Avenue, was born at Elsass, Germany, on February 2d, 1877. His father was a successful merchant and manufacturer and had trusted Louis to become a merchant, too. The son desired to become a physician and decided to come to America in order to satisfy his ambition. He came here in 1893 at the age of 16, with some education, but neither money nor a trade. He secured a position in a drug store and within two years became a qualified pharmacist. He continued his studies and in 1903 was graduated from the Cornell University Medical School. He took up the practice of medicine in Ridgewood at 50 Forest avenue the same year and has built up a large and presumably lucrative practice. His home at Forest Avenue is regarded by some as one of the three handsomest houses in Greater Ridgewood.

In 1893, he married Emma Louisa Licht, a niece of Philip Licht, the famous fireworks manufacturer of the last generation, whose works occupied a large tract of land and whose home still stands immediately opposite Dr. Licht's home. The families are, however, in no way related.

Dr. Licht has three children: Helen, eight years of age, Mildred and Louis.

Dr. Licht's favorite recreations are automobileing, horse-back riding and hunting, and he has a number of handsome trophies testifying to his prowess as a hunter.

He is Associate Physician and Surgeon at Jamaica Hospital and Attending Physician at St. Mary's Hospital, Jamaica. He is a member of the Third Assembly District Democratic Association and of Alpha Kappa Fraternity of Cornell University.



HENRY E. PFLUG, M.D.

#### H. E. Pflug

Dr. Henry Edward Pflug was born in 1879 in New York City and came to Brooklyn as a boy.

Dr. Pflug studied at the University of Gottingen, Germany, and also at the Long Island Medical College, and was an interne at the St. Catherine's Hospital for one and one-half years.

Dr. Pflug came to the Greater Ridgewood section in 1909 and has since established a very lucrative business. In 1911, he married May Dietz, daughter of Philip Dietz. The doctor is fond of outdoor sports of every kind and is a member of the Myrtle Improvement Association and other clubs and organizations.

#### Wm. B. Rosencrans

William B. Rosenerans, the popular physician and active civic worker, was born in Rensselaer County, near Albany, on his father's farm (Dr. Rosenerans' father was a native of Germany), May 3d, 1874. He attended the public

schools at Nassau, and was graduated from the State Normal School at Albany in 1897 and Union University and Medicoal College in 1901. He came to Ridgewood in February, 1902.

In 1906, Dr. Rosenerans married Ella H. Freude, of Brooklyn, and has a daughter: Anna Jocelyn. His home and office is at 1494 Greene avenue.

Dr. Rosenerans has been identified with Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association and the Allied Boards of Trade, rendering conspicuous service as chairman of committees on Education and on Public Health and Sanitation. He is secretary of the Mutual Hospital Association.

(For Photograph see group picture of Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers Association.)

#### Frederick Barget

The inherited training, received from a father who served the public faithfully as a pharmacist in the old Williamsburg section for over fifty years, is the successful equipment possessed by Frederick Barget, who has been conducting a pharmacy at the corner of Grove street and Myrtle avenue for the past six years.

Mr. Barget, Ph.G. was born in Brooklyn in September, 1863, of German parents. His first pharmacy was at 163 Manhattan Avenue. Mr. Barget has loyally devoted all his time to the upbuilding of his business. "Business takes up all my time," is what Mr. Barget answered in answer to the question of whether he had any recreations or hobbies that he indulges in, and this probably explains why he has been so remarkably successful in business.

Mr. Barget, it might be mentioned, is a member of the Deutscher Apotheker Verein of New York, Brooklyn Pharmacists Society and the Masonic Order.



WILLIAM A. FLUHR, Ph.G.

**William A. Fluhr**

Mr. William A. Fluhr, the well-known druggist of 2297 Metropolitan avenue, whose family is mentioned elsewhere, was born on Forest Avenue within a stone's throw of his present home and place of business, January 8th, 1882.

He was not only the first graduate of the Forest Avenue School, but he was the whole graduating class of 1896. He took a course at the Long Island Business College and then a course at the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy, from which he was graduated in 1903.

Some time ago, he opened the drug store in the building adjoining the present location and is now one of the owners of the Kattman-Fluhr Company, operating a chain of stores in Brooklyn and Queens County.

**H. A. Arfert**

H. A. Arfert, Ph. G., of 2087 Elm Avenue, was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in 1869.

In 1882, Mr. Arfert graduated as a

pharmacist with high honors from the Madison University, Wisconsin.

Three years ago, he came into the Ridgewood section. Previous to this, Mr. Arfert had a large drug store at Avenue A and 88th Street, New York. His first store in Brooklyn was at Knickerbocker Avenue, which he sold just previous to acquiring his present store on Elm Avenue.

Mr. Arfert has traveled practically all over the world and is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, Deutsche Apotheker Verein, Brooklyn Pharmaceutical Society and the Kings County Pharmaceutical Society.

**Henry Garfield**

Henry Garfield is the Ridgewood representative of the American Druggists' Syndicate Company, the largest and most influential co-operative drug association in the world. For some time he has been working to organize the Ridgewood druggists into buying and advertising clubs and to induce the consumer to local shopping. His aim is the unification of Ridgewood business. He feels, as many of the people of our section do, that our section can best be built up and made prosperous when the consumer does his or her shopping in the local stores.

Mr. Garfield's greatest work, of course, is among the drug trade. The Asco Club is his latest accomplishment and it has proven a boom to the Ridgewood druggists who can now give better value to their customers and still realize a more just profit.

Mr. Garfield stands for progressiveness and modern methods. He believes in advertising, in co-operation and in honest business and is lending his every effort to bring Ridgewood merchants to this point of view.

**Oscar P. Kimmel**

Mr. Oscar P. Kimmel, pharmacist, of 262 St. Nicholas Avenue, was born in Manhattan in 1882 and resided there all his life until he came to the Greater Ridgewood section in June, 1911 and bought the present store from W. J. Burkhard.

He is married and has two children, a boy and a girl.

Mr. Kimmel graduated from the New York College of Pharmacy in 1904 and served as a registered clerk in New York until 1906, when, with his brother, he opened a pharmacy of his own. The brother is now running the New York store. He is a member of the Amity Association of New York City, Brooklyn Pharmaceutical Society, Alumni Society of New York, College of Pharmacy A. D. 8, I. O. T. T., Ridgewood Lodge.

**Adam B. Richert**

Mr. Adam B. Richert was born in Brooklyn in 1875 and came to Greater Ridgewood in 1907, establishing a pharmacy at 1877 Myrtle Avenue, where the business is still conducted. Previous to this, Mr. Richert had served as a drug clerk in the East New York section, but his real beginning in the drug business was at the age of 13 years, when he started in with Hugo Wesch, on Wyckoff Avenue. Here he received his early training in the drug business.

In 1896, Mr. Richert was registered as a regular pharmacist. He has an excellent reputation in the neighborhood and his success since he established himself in our section proves that he is well liked.

In 1900, Mr. Richert married Barbara Fleig, by whom he has three children: Loretta, Edward and Harry. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, C. B. L., Foresters of America, Kings

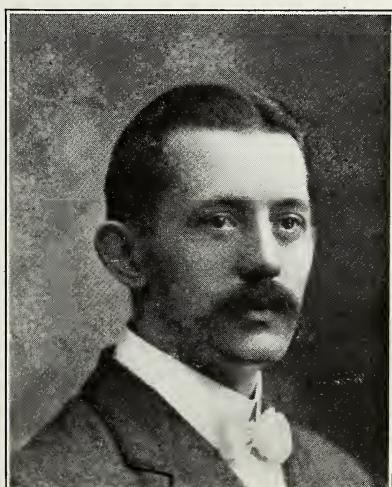
County Pharmaceutical Society, German Apotheker Society, American Druggists' Syndicate, etc.

**Adolph Sanntrock**

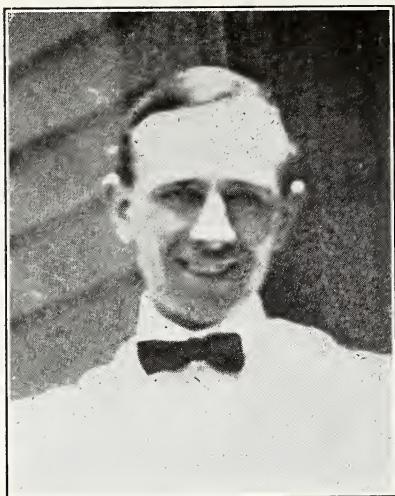
Adolph Sanntrock, pharmacist, at Myrtle Avenue and Ralph Street, is well known as the president of the Wedgewood Club.

Mr. Sanntrock was born in Hanover, Germany, on February 28th, 1876, and came to America in 1884. He graduated from Brooklyn College of Pharmacy in 1898, and took a position with the well-known drug firm of R. C. Knipe and Sons. In 1905, Mr. Sanntrock established a pharmacy at Irving Avenue and Ralph Street, later moving to Myrtle Avenue and Ralph Street.

Aside from his membership in the Wedgewood Club, Mr. Sanntrock is also a member of the German Apothecary Association of New York. In 1900 Mr. Sanntrock married Harriet Holme, by whom he has one child, Mabel, eleven years of age.



ADOLPH SANNTROCK, Ph.G



FRED. A. SANDMANN, Ph.G.

**Fred A. Sandman**

Fred A. Sandman, the popular druggist, of Myrtle avenue and George street, is a native of the Evergreen section and was born in Green Street, Evergreen, November 25th, 1886. He attended the old Union Free School, which was later known as No. 68, and from there he attended Public School No. 75, Covert Avenue and Bleecker Street.

Like several other pharmacists, Mr. Sandman is still enjoying his days of single blessedness, although it is rumored that if he could have his choice, he would single out a girl in the Ridgewood section to share his prosperity with him.

Mr. Sandman started as a drug clerk with Curtis Claassen at Knickerbocker and Greene Avenues in 1901, and served here until 1912, when he bought the prosperous business from Henry Lentz which he is continuing with great credit to himself and which is constantly growing through his personal attention and courteous treatment extended to his customers.

**William F. Silvers**

Wm. F. Silvers, Ph. G., proprietor of the pharmacy at Gates and Onderdonk avenues, has established by courteous treatment to his customers and strict attention to business, a successful pharmacy in the four years that he has been in the Ridgewood section.

He was born in Sachsen, Germany, in 1881. He came to this country at the early age of eighteen and took up pharmacy as a profession, graduating from both the New York College of Pharmacy and Columbia University. He then went to work as a clerk first at Riker and Hegeman's and later at Jungeman's in New York City, serving for over eight years, when he started in for himself at the present location.

Mr. Silvers is a member of the Brooklyn Pharmaceutical Association, Long Island Drug Club, Commercial Travelers of Utica and several benevolent societies.

Since Mr. Silvers took over the present business, he has transformed it into an up-to-date pharmacy, with a high-class prescription department and many accommodations, such as telegraph station, branch post office, etc., for the benefit of the public.

**William G. Turner**

Progressiveness is the keynote of the success of Mr. Wm. G. Turner, who owns two pharmacies, one at 207 Forest avenue and another at 2060 Gates avenue, employing a registered pharmacist at both places. Mr. Turner was born in Brooklyn in 1880. He studied as a pharmacist and graduated in 1901. Mr. Turner is interested in all outdoor sports. His Forest Avenue store was opened in 1908 and his store at Gates avenue in 1911. Mr. Turner simply made use of the opportunities as he saw them and this, coupled with his fourteen



WILLIAM G. TURNER, Ph.G.

years of experience, in which time he traveled all over the world as a druggist, and the uniform practice of courteous treatment and reliability in prescription work has made him highly esteemed and placed him among the successful men of the Ridgewood section. Mr. Turner served four years in the navy, is a Spanish War Veteran and a member of the Brooklyn Pharmaceutical Association, the Wedgewood Club, the New York Deutscher Apotheke Verein and the Spanish-American War Veteran Association, Hubbell Camp.

#### D. Westheimer

D. Westheimer, Ph.G., has become widely known as the manufacturer of the famous Lax-O-Cap tablets, which are advertised and used throughout the country.

Mr. Westheimer was born in Baden Germany, in 1873, and came to America in 1890. He opened his present store at Central Avenue and Bleecker Street in 1902.

He is a member of the Joseph Lodge, Three Sons, Brooklyn Pharmaceutical Association, Kings County Pharmaceut-

ical Association, New York State Pharmaceutical Association and the American Pharmaceutical Association and the New York Deutscher Apotheker Verein.

In 1901, Mr. Westheimer was married to Bertha Hirsch, by whom he has three children: Irene, Eugene and Willard.

#### Hugo Wesch

Wesch's Pharmacy, although Hugo Wesch is gone from among us, stands as the splendid monument of what a man can do who gives his undivided attention to his business and his customers. Mr. Wesch started his first pharmacy at Grove Street and Wyckoff Avenue, and from there he removed to the corner building at Myrtle and Wyckoff Avenues, which he especially built for his enlarged business. Here Mr. Wesch built up a business that gradually obtained one of the best reputations among physicians for its prescription work. Mr. Wesch, in partnership with Otto Wicke, established a chain of drug stores in Brooklyn which were made prosperous and later sold.

From the start, Mr. Wesch always endeavored to give the greatest satisfaction to his customers and always adhered to the fixed high standard in quality and accuracy, and since his decease, it is pleasant to note that the business has been carried on in the same reliable way by Mr. G D. Frueh, as manager, and Mr. M. Ernst Brunke, a first-class reliable graduate in pharmacy, as clerk.

#### C. D. Frueh

Mr. Frueh has been a resident of Greater Ridgewood for the past five years and was born in Germany in 1870, coming to America in 1881. He graduated as a pharmacist from Columbia University, New York, in 1891, and in 1896, married Bertha Holm, by whom he has three children. His first wife

died in 1908. Mr. Frueh was for many years employed at Burkhardt's Drug Store on Broadway, before assuming charge of the Wesch Pharmacy in 1907. In 1909, he married Marie Keim.

Mr. Frueh states that courtesy, reliability and quick attention are the standards carried out in the Wesch Pharmacy, and for the convenience of patrons, the store maintains two long distance telephones and a Telegraph, Express and Money Order Department.

#### **Harry Claassen**

Harry Claassen, the druggist of Knickerbocker corner Greene Avenues, was born in New York City April 8th, 1880. He spent his boyhood at Belleville, N. J., however, and was graduated from its public schools. He was graduated from the New York College of Pharmacy in 1900 and joined his brother, now Dr. Claassen, when he purchased this drug store from Wicke and Wesch, and recently has assumed entire charge of the business, as his brother has devoted himself entirely to his growing medical practice.

Harry Claassen is an expert swimmer and has an enviable record as a life saver. He keeps a motorboat and devotes his vacation to aquatic sports. He is, like his brother, the doctor, an expert ball player and often pitches for local professional teams. He is a member of the 20th Assembly Democratic Club.

He is also a member of De Long Council, R. A.; Brooklyn Medical Society, and of the old "White Church" on Bushwick Avenue.

#### **J. O. E. Neven**

"Living in single blessedness" were the words that Mr. Julius Otto Emil Neven, the popular druggist of 561 Knickerbocker Avenue, wrote across the information blank sent to him in connection with this biographical

sketch, and on the strength of this we are constrained to call the attention of our Ridgewood girls to this information.

Mr. Neven was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1873, and came to America in 1882, proceeding to Philadelphia and then to New York. Mr. Neven has been a resident of the Ridgewood section for the past eight years.

In 1894, he passed the New York State Board of Pharmacy and opened his present store, 561 Knickerbocker Avenue, eight years ago.

He is a member of the Kings County Pharmaceutical Association and Long Island Druggists' Club.

#### **Louis Uhloth**

The first pharmacy in the Glendale section of Greater Ridgewood was opened by Mr. Louis Uhloth, Myrtle and Fosdick Avenues. Mr. Uhloth opened the store in 1901 and has since prospered wonderfully, his pharmacy having supplied a real need for the section in which he opened.

Mr. Uhloth was born in Germany in 1862 and came to America in 1888. Previous to this he had studied for four and one-half years at the Heidelberg and Leipzig Universities, where he passed the physicians' examinations, entitling him to be called Dr. Ph. Mr. Uhloth had a drug store in the Williamsburg section five years previous to coming to Glendale.

#### **Peter Riebling**

Peter Riebling, son of William Riebling, proprietor of Greater New York Park, is one of the young pharmacists who took hold of a business that was waiting for just the type of young man that Mr. Riebling represents.

He started in the pharmacy of E. M. Thompson, 1534 Myrtle Avenue, and

on the retirement of Mr. Thompson, he took over the business which he has since made very popular.

In 1907, Mr. Riebling married Caroline Koenig, daughter of the well-known Koenig family of our section, whose father's name was so long associated with Glendale Scheutzen Park. There is one son, William Bernhardt.

#### Otto Wicke

Otto Wicke has been the creator of a score of drug stores throughout Greater Ridgewood and the city in general.

He was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1864, and, after graduating from the University in Copenhagen, he came to America in 1885, and entered the drug business. He soon started to establish drug stores in various parts of the city, selling the same usually to his clerks and arranging the sale in a manner that gave them an opportunity that they could not have had under ordinary conditions.

A branch of this store has recently been opened by Mr. Wicke at Myrtle and Onderdonk Avenues.

In 1909, he organized the Dr. Hoffman Medicine Co., and according to a statement made by Mr. Wicke, over \$200,000 has been spent in Bislae, Green Mountain Herb Tea, new Blood Spring Tonic and other patented preparations that are now used and sold throughout the country.

Mr. Wicke was elected Assemblyman in 1897 in the 20th Assembly District, Brooklyn, and was the first to advocate a pure food and drugs act, reduction of mileage on the Long Island Railroad from 3 to 2 cents, legislation forcing the electric lighting and telephone companies to place their wires underground, and the equalizing of the salaries of policemen and firemen throughout the five boroughs, which went through a year later. Mr. Wicke also introduced important insurance legislation.

He is a member of innumerable professional, social and political clubs. Mr. Wicke was married to Louisa Moje in 1889 and by her has one son and one daughter: Otto Hugo and Antonio Emma.

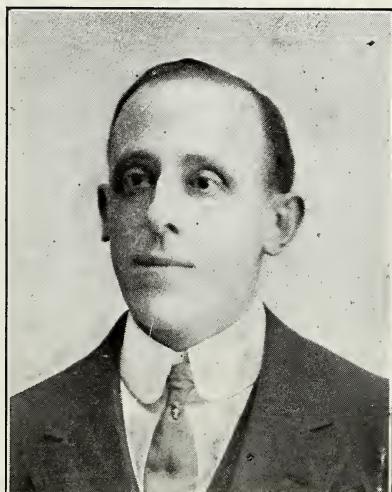
#### Charles Henry Roeber

Charles Henry Roeber is well known to many of the Ridgewood residents who formerly lived in the Williamsburg section and who traded with Kempf's Pharmacy, Broadway and Lorimer street, where Mr. Roeber served as clerk.

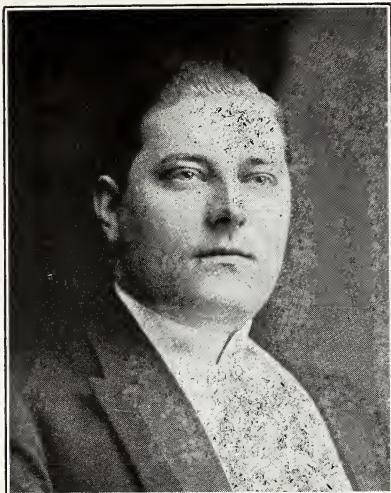
Mr. Roeber is a graduate of the New York College of Pharmacy and has been in the drug line for the last seventeen years.

He was born in Brooklyn in 1875. In 1909, he married Josephine Heusler and has no children.

In 1912 he established the present pharmacy at Covert avenue and Madison street, where he is doing exceptionally well.



CHARLES HENRY ROEBER, Ph.G.



KARL E. KALKBRENNER, D.D.S.

**Dr. Karl E. Kalkbrenner**

Karl E. Kalkbrenner, D.D.S., was born in Brooklyn in 1886, and resided there practically all his life, prior to his becoming a resident of the Ridgewood section in 1910.

He graduated from the New York College of Dentistry in 1909, a few months prior to his coming to our section, and his first dental office was opened at 2328 Myrtle Avenue, corner Stephen Street, where he still is and where he has established a thriving business.

In 1910, he married Louise Morton, by whom he has one child, Elvira Martha.

**Emil G. Raeder**

Dr. Emil G. Raeder has the proud distinction of having been the first dentist, not only in the Ridgewood section, but in a territory that extended from Broadway to Elmhurst.

Dr. Raeder was born in New York City April 16th, 1880, and is a resident of the section for the last twenty-five

years. After graduating from the common schools, he took up the study of Surgical Dentistry at the New York College of Dentistry and Oral Surgery, from which he graduated in 1900. In the same year he opened the office at 415 Grove Street, where the business is still conducted. Dr. Raeder has had unusual success in his line, due to his personality and recognized ability as a surgical dentist, and he has amassed quite a fortune in the years that he has been in business.

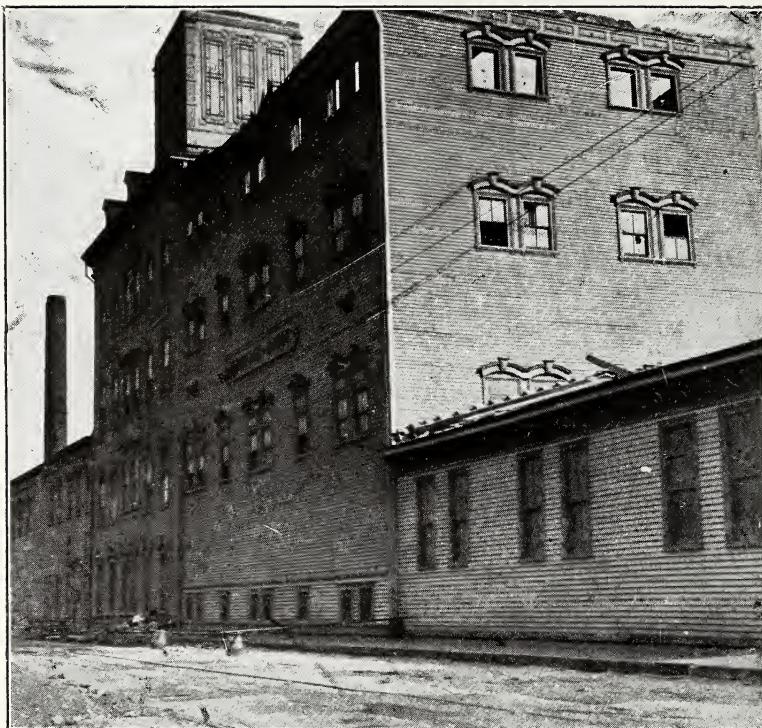
He is a member of Royal Arcanum No. 1327, Foresters of America, Court Bushwick; St. Nicholas Benevolent Society, Herald Avenue Improvement Association, Richmond Hill Improvement League, Ridgewood Board of Trade, Star of Hope Lodge, No. 430; De Witt Clinton Chapter No. 132, R. and M.; DeWitt Clinton Commandery, Kismet Temple, A. A. O. M. M. S.; Alumni Association of New York College of Dentistry and Oral Surgery. Dr. Raeder is also vice-president of the Ridgewood National Bank; vice-president of the Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Company, and a director of the Queensboro Business Institute.

(For photograph see group picture of Directors of the Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Company.)

**Post Office Changes Name**

In 1883, Ridgewood was still called South Williamsburg and when the name Ridgewood gradually became adopted, the Post Office was notified in 1886 to change its name, owing to another Ridgewood located near Hempstead, then in Queens County. After much deliberation the residents decided to give the name of Evergreen to their Post Office, selecting the title from the Cemetery of the Evergreens. It later became known as Glendale Station and at the present day is known as P. O. Station "J".

**PART XI**  
**PROMINENT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS**



J. GEORGE GRAUER'S RIDGEWOOD PARK BREWERY  
which stood on Willow Street, between Cypress and Covert Avenues, opposite  
present Ice Plant. Demolished in 1910

## CHAPTER XIV

### PROMINENT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS

#### **August Bauer**

August Bauer, manufacturer of the well-known line of Bauer Food Products, was born in Bavaria, Germany, October 14th, 1853, and came to America with his wife (nee Emma Albrecht) in 1879.

Mr. Bauer started in a very small way in Williamsburg in 1883, putting up a single product, horse radish. He met with success and in 1903 he came to the Greater Ridgewood section, building a factory and house at 1446 Metropolitan Avenue. He now began to produce large quantities of bottled horse radish, prepared mustard and products of a like nature, and at present his goods are being handled by jobbers all over the country. He has three large wagons, supplying the retail local stores.

Mr. Bauer is a member of the Metropolitan Taxpayers' Association, of St. Aloysius R. C. Church, and of several German singing societies.

Mr. Bauer has five children: Rudolph, Frederick, Leo, Bertha and Anna, all of whom, except Anna, are married.

#### **John J. Ballweg**

John J. Ballweg, of "Diana Chocolates" fame, was born in Germany April 15th, 1882. He came to this country in 1897 with his father, John E. Ballweg, now of 1860 DeKalb Avenue, who is one of the well-known builders of Ridgewood.

About ten years ago, John J. Ballweg opened a confectionery store and ice cream parlor on Kingston Avenue near Pacific Street and made an immediate hit among the aristocratic residents of the St. Marks Avenue section of Brook-

lyn, with the unusually good quality of his ice cream and his "home-made" candies.

Finding that the public readily recognized the good quality of his chocolates, he determined to sell his store and go into the wholesale manufacture of these goods. This he did, establishing his factory at 121-123 Nostrand Avenue, as told elsewhere in the account of the Diana candy factory. His venture has met with a success well merited by the quality of the goods, backed up as it is by a progressive sales department, which does not neglect their packing in attractive packages and their advertising through store cards, pennants, etc., and by such other means as the development and progress of the concern suggests.

Mr. Ballweg married Elizabeth Loeffler of Brooklyn in June, 1912, and lives at 359 Dill Place in one of the houses built by his father. He is a member of Algonquin Council, Royal Arcanum and of several trade organizations.

#### **Frederick Exner**

Frederick Exner speaks reminiscently of his childhood days when his parents lived at Knickerbocker Avenue and Starr Street, back in 1885. The sand banks immediately adjoined the yard of his home and Mr. Exner attributes the disappearance of the family's chickens to this fact.

Mr. Exner was born in Wurzburg, Germany, in 1872, and was brought to Brooklyn by his parents in 1875. His pronounced success in the piano line he attributes to the fact that he early made up his mind to learn the merchandising



MR. FREDERICK EXNER

of pianos. He travelled from coast to coast for various piano concerns and started in for himself by buying out in 1902 the piano concern of Steinmetz & Company. He followed this by buying out the well-known firm of Pressberg & Company, 43rd Street. Later he took over the stock of the Bailey Piano Company and following this he bought out Chandler-Held Company of Fulton and Jay Streets, one of the oldest piano concerns in the business.

In 1907, he organized the Held Company and furnished the stock and somewhat later in the same year he bought the present building at 1463 Myrtle Avenue, on which he plans to build an extra story this Spring, modernizing this building with electric elevator service and other improvements. The building will then also be used for manufacturing pianos and player pianos.

Besides the main building above referred to, Mr. Exner conducts a branch business at 294 Smith Street and another store at 1446 Myrtle Avenue, which is used as a storehouse and shop.

A branch is also maintained at 1204 Gerard Avenue, Philadelphia.

In 1892, Mr. Exner married Margaret Kratzer, of Rockaway Beach, and by her has two children: Margaret and Anna.

Mr. Exner is a member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, E. D. Turn Verein and Oriental Bowling Club. He is also a director of the Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Company. He is fond of water sports and summers at Broad Channel, where many of Ridgewood's business men have their summer residences.

#### **Chas. F. Flugge**

Chas. F. Flugge, president and manager of the Metropolitan Dairy Company, Inc., was born in Gaisendorf, Germany, September 2nd, 1867. Coming to this country as a mere lad, he started to work in a grocery store and soon managed to pick up the language as well as a thorough knowledge of the business. At the age of sixteen he came to Ridgewood and worked for a milk dealer.

He became acquainted with Henry Doht, who, at that time, was also in the milk business, and it was not long before he was associated with him. In 1892, Mr. Flugge launched out for himself, with a single horse and wagon, opening a creamery at Fresh Pond Road, where the Dietz Coal Yard is now located, and making a specialty of supplying confectioners. The business grew and in 1902, the High Ground Dairy Company was organized.

On June 12th, 1911, he resigned as a director and officer of the High Ground Company and on the 16th of the same month he purchased the old Montauk Brewery property at Metropolitan and Forest Avenues, and remodeled it into a modern milk plant.

In December, 1893, Mr. Flugge mar-

ried Louise Doht, sister of Henry Doht, and by her has two children: Clara and Charles Theodore.

Mr. Flugge served as a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Doht. He is a member of the Rothenberger Freundshafte Bund and a Free Mason.

#### George Edward Ferris

Mr. Ferris is representative of that class of men who achieve success at an early stage of their career. Though he is only twenty-five years of age (at the time of this publication), he has already reached one of the uppermost rungs of the ladder. He is manager of the Standard Knitting Mills of Ridgewood and he accounts for his rapid rise to this capacity by way of an old adage: "He who sticks to the one bush will gather his strawberries."

Mr. Ferris was born in Manhattan on March 24th, 1888, and came to Brooklyn when he was six years old. He has been a resident of Brooklyn since then, with slight interruption. He attended the Eastern District High School, was engaged by Mills & Gibbs Wholesale Dry Goods House, rising there from office boy to call clerk and assistant book-keeper, and finally by Dennison Mfg. Co. of South Farmingham, Mass. Here he rose to manager of Claim and Adjustment Department. He then came to the Standard Knitting Mills as manager.

He married Miss Matilda Werner in 1912 and their union has been blessed very recently by the birth of their only child, Dorothea Helen February 13th, 1913.

#### John R. Gute

John Rudolph Gute, well known citizen of the Middle Village section of Greater Ridgewood, was born July 5th, 1872, not far from his present home at 50 Juniper Avenue, and has been a life-long resident of this section. As a boy

he attended the school which for a number of years was an institution of the Middle Village Lutheran Church.

He learned the trade of monument builder and was employed for some time by Mr. Greiner, of whom he later became a partner under the firm name of Greiner & Gute. Upon the death of Mr. Greiner, Mr. Gute bought out the widow's interest and has built up a large business.

In 1893 (October 11th), Mr. Gute married Elizabeth Avenius, and has two children: Florence and John.

He is a member of Copernicus Lodge, 545, F and A. M.; DeLong Council, R. A.; Elks of Long Island City, Fearless Hook and Ladder Co., Second Ward Democratic and Third Assembly District Democratic Clubs, the Eberhardt Rifle Club Team and several German shooting and singing societies and fishing clubs.

#### The Flooded Section

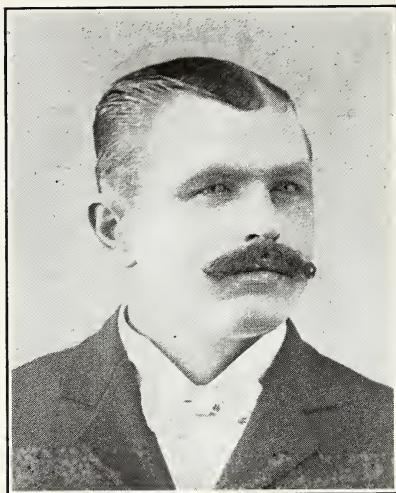
Mr. Edson Lawrence relates that when he first came to live in the Twenty-eighth Wards section of Greater Ridgewood, this part of the City was known as the "flooded section." There were times, he says, when the water from the Evergreen sewers flooded his gardens and rose within a few inches of the horses' backs in his barns.

#### Post Office Staff

There are now thirty-six carriers, one superintendent, one assistant, nine clerks and one laborer at Post Office Station "J."

#### Post Office Increase

The mail matter has increased from one and one-half million to two million pieces of mail a month around Christmas time, representing over 120 per cent. increase.



MR. CHRISTIAN GROZINGER

**Christian Grozinger**

Christian Grozinger, whose establishment on Hamburg Avenue, corner Stockholm Street, cures and turns out several thousand pounds of meat, sausages and bologna daily, was born in Germany September 11th, 1868, and came to this country at the age of sixteen.

In 1889, he married Sophia Sohner.

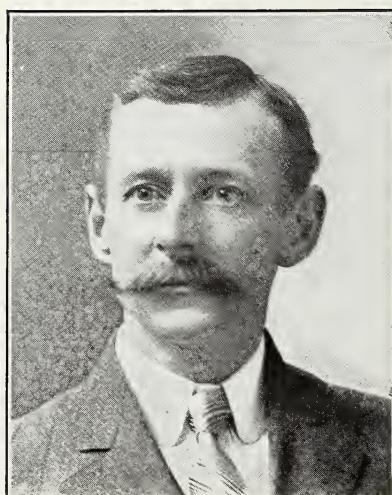
In 1890, he had a successful retail market in Clarenceville, which he sold and then purchased the old established place in East New York, which he conducted for five years.

In 1897, Mr. Grozinger acquired an interest in the packing house of Gaunselle and Troutemann and later bought out the partners and became sole owner.

Mr. Grozinger is a member of the Ridgewood Board of Trade, Royal Aracanum, Arion and Concordia Singing Societies. He was one of the German-American singers who toured Germany and sang before the Kaiser in 1896.

**Henry J. Glaser**

Henry J. Glaser is a native of the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, having been born there in 1870. He came to the Evergreen section in 1885 and established himself in the hay, grain and feed business. His business experienced a singular transition in the year of 1908, when the great trunk sewer was being laid on Myrtle Avenue; when traffic was blocked, and when the farmers, who had been accustomed to go to the market via Myrtle Avenue, wended their way through Metropolitan Avenue, a route that they have for the most part followed ever since. Another cause that seriously and permanently crippled the big transient trade of those days, was the closing of the Broadway and Roosevelt Street ferries. Through these changes, Mr. Glasser was compelled to seek an entirely new class of customers and practically had to reconstruct his business. That he weathered this condition successfully and again established



MR. HENRY J. GLASER

a lucrative trade is evidenced by the extensive business that he does.

The business now is largely a specialized one of supplying cattle hay to dairies, Mr. Glasser being considered an expert in the selection and grading of clover hay.

Mr. Glasser was also president of the Hy. J. Glasser Construction Company, which was instrumental in constructing the lateral sewer through many of the streets of Glendale by private contract at a period when sewers were a dire necessity in this section, and his efforts in this direction were recognized and highly appreciated by the residents of Glendale.

Mr. Glasser, in the early days of the section, was a prominent figure in local Democratic politics, and while he has ceased to be actively engaged in this line, yet his influence and advice are still sought in matters affecting local political conditions.

In 1894, he married Barbara Krenig, by whom he has five children: Mildred, Harriet, Henry, Carl and Eugene. He is and always has been a staunch supporter and personal friend of Judge Denton and is honored and respected in the section.

#### **Henry F. Homeyer**

Henry F. Homeyer, the hay, grain and grocery merchant of Metropolitan and Prospect Avenues, is the son and business successor of C. D. Homeyer, now of Richmond Hill, who established this business about thirty-five years ago. Henry was born February 5th, 1883, and has lived all his life in the same house adjoining this place of business. He has, however, just built a new home around the corner. He attended the Forest Avenue school and later Wright's Business College, and on September 16th, 1906, married Louisa Mager, daughter of Martin Mager. He has a little daugh-

ter, Ruth, now about six years of age. About eight years ago he succeeded his father in the business.

He is treasurer of the Third Assembly District Democratic Club and takes an active interest in politics. He is also a member of Dr. Peterson's Church.

#### **Richard A. Homeyer**

The Homeyer family is identified with our section for nearly a hundred years. Henry Homeyer, father of Richard A. Homeyer, and C. D. Homeyer owned a good sized farm in Middle Village.

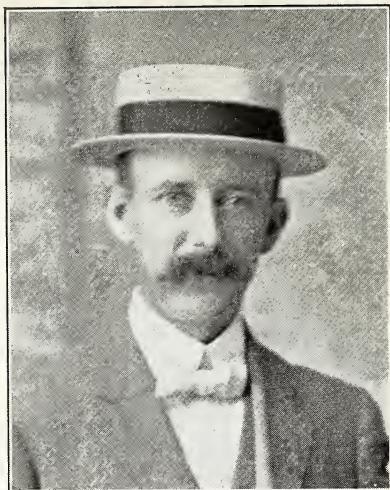
Richard A. Homeyer was born in Ridgewood November 29th, 1859. He began as a young man to earn his living by clerking in the grocery store of Herriman Ringe of Middle Village.

In 1881, on October 7th, he married Elizabeth Sutter, daughter of John Sutter, then superintendent of Lutheran Cemetery, and later became manager of his father-in-law's monument works. This he has continued since then, more recently assisted by his oldest son, John F., who, in April 1910., married Ella Bunger of New Jersey. Besides the son just mentioned, Mr. Homeyer has two daughters: Henrietta M. and Caroline C.

Richard A. Homeyer served in 1893 and 1894 as chief of engineers of the Newtown Fire Department. He was a tax assessor of old Newtown and a deputy tax commissioner for two years. He has served eight years as deputy chief in charge of Queens Borough.

He has about a trunkful of prizes and trophies for fancy birds, which he has been awarded at various exhibitions during the past twenty-two years.

Mr. Homeyer is a member of the Metropolitan Avenue Board of Trade, United Brother Lodge, 356, F. and A. M.; Newtown Council R. A.; Elks of Long Island City and Jamaica Council, R. A.



MR. JOHN HEVERIN

**John Heverin**

John Heverin was born in Galway, Ireland, in 1866, and came to St. Louis in 1884. In 1900, he came to Ridgewood and purchased from George Elliott the shop which was then situated at 361 St. Nicholas Avenue, next door to where Mr. Heverin's new shop now stands.

Mr. Heverin is a member of the Knights of Columbus, St. Columbia Council, Royal Arcanum; Valiant Council No. 1559, Foresters of America; Court Corrige, Master Horseshoers' Protective Association, No. 42, Ridgewood Democratic Club, Grove Pinochle Club, Edelweiss Pinochle Club St. Nicholas Benevolent Association, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division No. 27; St. Brigid's Holy Name Society, Old New Yorkers Benevolent Society, Chas. Garzina Benevolent Society, Catholic Benevolent Legion, Sylvester Malone Council No. 56. Mr. Heverin was one of the local business men who assisted in establishing the Ridgewood National Bank and is still a stockholder of same.

Mr. Heverin has been married a sec-

ond time, his second marriage with Mary Higgins occurring in St. Brigid's Church, Father Carroll officiating. Mr. Heverin has six children: James, William, John, Michael, Alice and Katherine.

**Frederick J. Kohlmeyer**

The marvelous increase in population meant for Mr. Frederick J. Kohlmeyer, proprietor of the well-known Ridgewood Carpet Cleaning Works, 1648-50 Putnam Avenue, an increase of business such as Mr. Kohlmeyer never dreamed of when he established his business at his present address fifteen years ago. Mr. Kohlmeyer was formerly a clothing cutter before getting into the carpet cleaning business. In March, 1890, he married Pauline Stoecker, by whom he has three sons: Frederick, Jr., Harry and William.

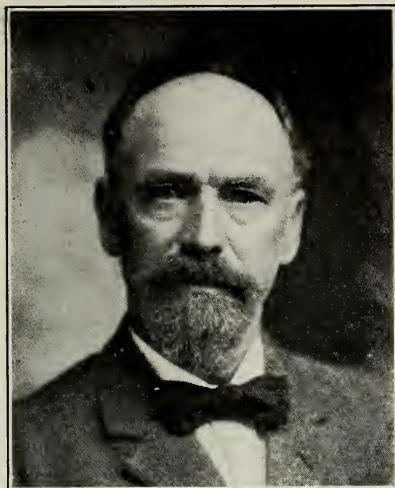
Outside of his membership in the Clothing Cutters' Aid Society, Mr. Kohlmeyer is not identified with any organizations.

**John Lapp**

Another one of the widely known food products manufacturers is Mr. John Lapp. Mr. Lapp does an extensive business in grocers' sundries and that he has been successful and thrifty in his business is shown by the several good pieces of property that Mr. Lapp has acquired in the section.

Mr. Lapp was born in Germany in November, 1848, and came to this country in 1867. In 1877, he opened a grocery store on Flushing Avenue and five years later moved to his present address and began the manufacture of food products.

Mr. Lapp married Martha Flechsenhaar of Manhattan in 1875, and has six children: Herrman, who married Anna Bode, and has two children: John and Henry; Madeline, who married George Cochran, who has a little daughter,



MR. JOHN LAPP

Martha; Louise, who married Christian Bode, and Dorothy, Frederick and Emma, who are still at home.

#### Rudolph Dick

Mr. Rudolph Dick, one of our oldest residents, enjoys the distinction of being one of the very earliest plasterers in Greater Ridgewood, having done the work for over 300 houses since his residence here.

Mr. Dick was born in Germany in 1860 and came to America in 1885. He married Miss L. Mittnacht and their union has been blessed by 6 children. Mr. Dick is a member of many societies and is quite prominent in civic work in our section. His business policy has always been to pay his bills promptly and to live and let live. Mr. Dick is well liked by his many friends for his fine character.

#### Adam E. Fischer

Adam E. Fischer, architect and chairman of the House Committee of the German Hospital, was prominently associated with the erection of the German Hospital Buildings, having been a member of the Building Committee during

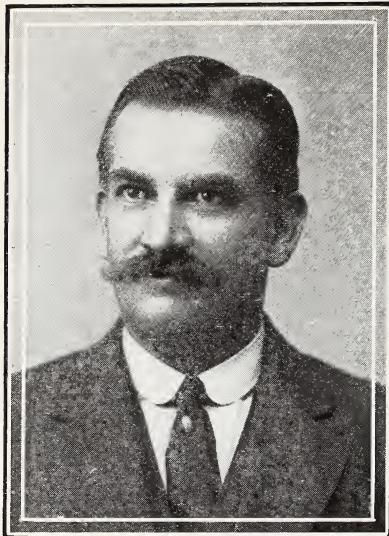
its construction and supervised its work. For ten years Mr. Fischer has been actively connected with the House Committee of the hospital and is now its chairman, and for seventeen years as one of the board of directors. He has been interesting himself with the general work of the hospital in all of its phases.

Mr. Fischer, who has resided in this vicinity for 42 years, was born in New York City, January 9., 1863. A few years before he attained his majority, he studied architecture and at the age of twenty-seven started in the profession for himself. He has made a success of his vocation, having been engaged at it now continually for twenty-three years. When he is not occupied with his profession or his philanthropic work in connection with the hospital, he finds recreation in civic work or indulging in yachting.

Mr. Fischer is the President of the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers Association, Chairman of the Committee on Legislation of the New York Society of Architects, member of E. D. Turn-Verein and German American Literary Union.



MR. ADAM E. FISCHER



MR. ADOLPH P. ROESENER

**Adolph P. Roesener.**

Our section may well be proud in counting among its residents such a man as Mr. Adolph P. Roesener, electrical and mechanical engineer. Mr. Roesener has such a wonderfully creative mind that he well deserves the title of the Edison of the Greater Ridgewood section. He controls the patents for over 120 different inventions, most of which are electrical devices. His creative ingenuity is unparalleled, not only in our section, but in the city at large. At present, Mr. Roesener is pushing an invention of his for stereopticon purposes, for which he refused an offer of \$60,000, having the executive courage and the far-sighted enterprising spirit to manufacture the device himself.

Mr. Roesener is a college-bred man, having graduated from the University of Strassburg with the degree of E.E. He studied at Columbia University and also at the College of the City of New

York, receiving the degree of C.E. (Civil Engineer) and M.E. (Mechanical Engineer).

Mr. Roesener was born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1865 and came to America in 1876. He early showed an interest in things pertaining to electricity. He studied hard to acquire the knowledge that he now possesses, but his talents were early appreciated. He was employed by the Edison Company for fourteen years as its District Manager for the greater part of Manhattan. Later he was foreman for the Westinghouse-Church Car Company. Finally his creative talent was put to the best possible advantage, when he received a job as Superintendent of the Electrical Experimental Station at East Orange, N. J. Mr. Roesener was also Superintendent for Standard Hoople Company.

He is a member of the following: Odd Fellows, Eagles, Knights of Columbus, Society of Electrical Engineers and an ex-member of the Board of Fire Underwriters. Mr. Roesener is an ex-Naval officer.

On April 1st, 1915, Mr. Roesener established the A. W. R. Electric Manufacturing Co., Inc., at 1715 Cornelia Street, of which he is President and Treasurer. Mr. Frick is Secretary and General Sales Manager.

**Fred. W. Roeber**

Of the younger generation there are few who have such a future before them as Fred W. Roeber, son of the prosperous Ernst Roeber. Mr. Roeber was born in Brooklyn in 1889 and married Miss Lydia Wetzler. He is practically the manager of his father's establishment and in time, no doubt, will be the sole owner. He is only 26 years of age. He is already well known and very popular among the political men of our section. He is a sergeant of the Fourteenth National Guard.



MR. CHARLES DINKEL

**Charles Dinkel**

Mr. Charles Dinkel, whose name is synonymous in our section as well as in the city at large, for business standing, high character and lofty business principles, started at the very bottom of the ladder in the slaughter house, earning \$8.00 a month. By constant application, hard work and a shrewd native business sense, Mr. Dinkel worked himself up to his present state, which is almost at the very top of the wholesale butcher business of Brooklyn. There are three large delivery autos and seven wagons to the Dinkel firm and in all twenty-two employees.

Mr. Dinkel was born in Wurtemburg in 1878 and came to America in 1895. In 1899 he married Miss Hemming, a devoted and loving wife, to whom Mr. Dinkel attributes a great deal of his success. Charles, 15 years of age, attending Bushwick High School, and Frieda, 13 years, are the only two children.

Mr. Dinkel is a democratic man, who is not too proud to do the humblest sort of work. On being interviewed by a representative of the Ridgewood Times, Mr. Dinkel was painting a hammock on his roof, and a few minutes' talk with him told the story of his success. Mr. Dinkel's suave, attractive personality, his sterling honesty and his uncompromising free-mindedness accounts for his rapid rise to prosperity.

Mr. Dinkel belongs, among others, to the following organizations: Charles Dinkel's Employees Association, Ridgewood Heights Maenner Chor, Schwaebischer Saengerbund of New York, Schwaebischer Volksfest Verein, York Commandery, ect. Mr. Dinkel is a thirty-second degree Mason, Teutonia Lodge No. 617, and is a member of Kismet Temple. As a Mason, he has received all but the very highest of honors. He is also a member of the Master Butchers of America.

**Michael Braun**

Perhaps one of our oldest residents is Mr. Michael Braun, proprietor of the well-known cafe on Cooper Avenue, Glendale. Mr. Braun was born in Germany, June 21st, 1870, coming to America in 1885 and settling in Brooklyn. In 1890 he married Miss R. Raisch and their marriage has been blessed with nine children, all of whom are well employed. Mr. Braun is a member of the Foresters of America, Court Glendale, Black Hawk Tribe of Red Men, Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Society, Aurora Singing Society, and is also the first tenor in a quartette. Mr. Braun came to this country an orphan at the age of fourteen, studying at night and working in a butcher shop.

Mr. Braun is a deputy sheriff and is treasurer of the DeBoo Benevolent Society.



MR. JOSEPH WILL

**Joseph Will**

Mr. Joseph Will is the proprietor of the pork shop on Seneca near Myrtle Avenue. No one who enters his establishment can withhold a word of praise for the cleanliness and wholesome atmosphere existing in his meat shop. Mr. Will was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 25th, 1877, coming to America in 1893. For sixteen years he has been a resident of our section. He was in the fat business in Maspeth for a great many years before he opened up his new place. It is a credit to our section to have such butchers as Mr. Will, because of the consideration with which he handles his customers in the way of supplying their meats from his clean shop. Mr. Will started business on a very small scale. He is a third degree Mason, of Schiller Lodge No. 304; a member of the Taxpayers Association of Maspeth, and is also a property owner.

**Philip Lopicollo**

Few business men in our section enjoy the peculiar prosperity of Mr. Philip Lopicollo. He is the only man in the wholesale olive oil business in our section, and as such has had an undisturbed monopoly of the trade here. But Mr.

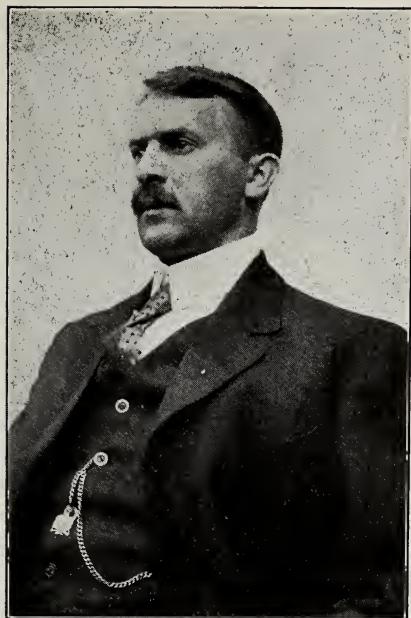
Lopicollo's enterprising efforts are not confined to Ridgewood alone, for annually he ships hundreds of gallons of olive oil to the West.

Mr. Lopicollo has had a strange history. Born in Italy in 1880, and after traveling from one city to another, he came to New Orleans, where he worked as an ordinary lumber hand, and after a short time opened a grocery and wine room. He then journeyed to California, and then to Brooklyn, where he opened a small store near the Putnam Coal Yards. To accommodate his increasing patronage he moved across the street to more commodious quarters. His wife died eighteen months ago, leaving him with four children.

Mr. Lopicollo is of a very genial disposition and expresses it on every occasion that one enters his store, treating every customer to some of his delicious imported wine.



MR. PHILIP LOPICOLLO



MR. F. E. BOTTLER

**F. E. Bottger**

Mr. F. E. Bottger, known as the Mayor of Diogenesville and treasurer of the Diogenes Pinochle Club, was born in Leipzig, Germany, October 8th, 1874. In 1894 he married Clara Krauss. Mr. Bottger lost a great deal at the time of the San Francisco earthquake, his business going to ruin on account of the upheaval. He then returned to New York City and immediately became popular in Ridgewood. He is a long distance swimmer, a member of Tuscan Lodge No. 704, F. and A. M., a member of the Evergreen Board of Trade and the proprietor of the cafe at the corner of Irving avenue and Decatur street. His genial disposition has attracted a great many friends to him, as his varied social and civic work attest.

**Anthon F. Rabot**

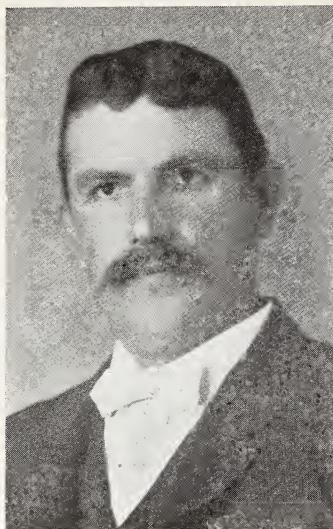
Few men in our section can boast of as many prominent friends as Anthon F. Rabot. Although he has been manager of the Queens County Labor Lyceum for only a year and a half, in that time he has made a friend of every prominent man in the Greater Ridgewood section, a performance which has incidentally netted an almost incredible increase of patronage for the Labor Lyceum. His splendid personality and suave, cordial manner account for no small share of enviable success.

He was born in Berlin, April 27th, 1873, and after receiving a high school education in the school of Berlin, he came to Brooklyn in 1894. Mr. Rabot looks back with longing to his Berlin days when he enjoyed the companionship of his father, for whom he retains so ardent a love and respect.

In our section Mr. Rabot distinguished himself as a Socialist leader, running for County Judge and Coroner, and polling more votes at times in the Democratic ranks than the party candidate. It is with a sense of pride that the "popular manager" of the Labor Lyceum looks back at this election surprise, because it proves the many friends that he has in parties opposed to his own.

Mr. Rabot is married to Bertha Kleiner, by whom he has three children: Emma, Peter and Herman. The lads are distinguishing themselves at the Bushwick High School in the field of athletics.

Mr. Rabot enjoys the distinction of having made the 3-for-\$1.00 dinners famous throughout the section for the choice purity of its food.



MR. CHARLES C. MILLER

### **Charles C. Miller**

Of the older residents of our section few have done so much to build it up as Mr. Charles C. Miller. For the last ten years he has been actively engaged in building operations in our section, and long before that he was helping to build houses in Ridgewood as contractor and carpenter. During this time he established a name for himself that has become synonymous with reliability and integrity. Mr. Miller takes pride in the fact that his best friends are his customers and that he has never had a "come-back" from anyone for whom he did any work.

Mr. Miller was born in Germany on February 11th, 1863, and came to America in 1881, after receiving his education in the German schools. In America he traveled far and wide—at one time being in the West and Chicago, then returning to Brooklyn. After residing twenty-five years in Brooklyn, he went to Florida, finally settling in

Brooklyn. He opened a small shop on Harman Street, and it was here that he built his first house. He later came to Glendale, building on Gamma and Epsilon Places.

In 1890, Mr. Miller married Anna Nostrum (deceased), by whom he had four children: Charles, Christian, Anna and John.

The career of Mr. Miller could serve as an inspiration to many. When he took his first job from Mr. Metz, he had only a hundred dollars to his name, but through his hard work and industrious application to even the details of his work, he has worked his way up to the top. His pleasing personality and agreeable manner account for no little part of the success he has achieved.

He is a Forester (Newtown); formerly was member of Odd Fellows, Heinrich Hein Lodge, etc.

### **William Schaedler**

One of the big names in benevolent circles of our section is the name of Mr. William Schaedler, standard-bearer of the Schaedler Benevolent Society and a member of over twenty societies all over Greater New York.

Mr. Schaedler was born in New York in 1867 and for seventeen years was in the cafe business. Four years ago he came to our section and immediately became popular, starting the successful benevolent society which bears his name. He has been connected with some of the largest rackets ever held in our section. His own society has about 190 members and every year the annual outings draw a great crowd.

Mr. Schaedler is well liked by all who know him and is prominent in all movements for the betterment of our section.

He has never made a failure of anything that he has taken up. His remarkable executive ability brings success to anything to which he attaches his name.



MR. PHILIP MEHLING

### Philip Mehling

Philip Mehling, of 106 Ford Avenue, Glendale, has had a very successful career. He was born in Karlstadt, on the Main River, Bavaria, June 9th, 1877. He came to Brooklyn June 2d, 1895. Seven years ago he started in for himself at his present address in Glendale and from then on his success has been satisfactory.

He was married to Elizabeth Wunderlin on June 17th, 1908.

### Stephen Woris

There are very few men in the Greater Ridgewood section that can boast of the Americanism of Mr. Stephen Woris.

Mr. Woris was educated in Germany and came to America in 1902, starting in the building business in Ridgewood. When interviewed by a reporter of the

Ridgewood Times, Mr. Woris said: "I believe that a man owes his allegiance to the country in which he earns his living. I am not a hyphenated American but am proud to be called an American citizen."

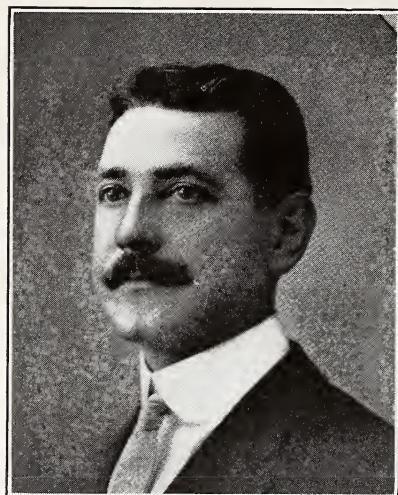
Mr. Woris was born in New York City on December 24th, 1884, and two years later went to Germany. He remained there until 1902, graduating from the German University as a full-fledged architect. He started to build in Ridgewood, equipped with a knowledge of every detail of building operations. He is a mechanic as well as an architect and is what one may call a professional builder. For eight years he has been a resident of our section and in that time he has built up Myrtle Avenue, for example, from Covert to Cypress, and a great many other houses too numerous to mention.

Mr. Woris is a credit to our section in every way and enjoys the peculiar distinction of being the youngest and perhaps the only unmarried builder in Greater Ridgewood.

### Charles Wolf

Very few men in our section have had the varied experience of Mr. Charles Wolf. Mr. Wolf was a mechanic one time, working as cabinet maker in the Brooklyn Rapid Transit repair shop, and at another time he went to Panama for the Government as cabinet maker. He came to Brooklyn and became a coach carpenter. He then entered the cafe business, operating about a half dozen other cafes before he came to the Welcome Inn.

Mr. Wolf has one of the largest instruments in the Greater Ridgewood section in his reception room. He was born in Germany in 1863, and came to America in 1886. He married Miss Zimmerman, by whom he has four children.



MR. GEORGE HUDTWALKER

**George Hudtwalker**

George Hudtwalker, although comparatively young as compared with most of our successful business men, has demonstrated that young men can undertake the management of an industry and cause it to become one of the largest, if not the largest, in the city.

Mr. Hudtwalker was born in Brooklyn, May 1st, 1880. In 1908, Mr. Hudtwalker became manager of the J. Geo. Grauer Brewery and Ice Plant, and after Mr. Grauer's death, he assumed full charge.

The selling of the Grauer Brewery in 1910 enabled Mr. Hudtwalker to give all his attention to the ice plant, and it is due to his enterprise and efficiency that the plant has grown to its present large proportion, and it is predicted that, under his continued guidance, this

plant will exceed all records of the past.

In 1910, Mr. Hudtwalker married Mrs. August G. Grauer (nee Marie Oehm), daughter of a prominent brewer.

Mr. Hudtwalker is First Lieutenant Company K, 47th Regiment National Guard. He saw service in Porto Rico during the Spanish-American War and is rated one of the best shots in the country.

**Frederick H. A. Gerken**

Few men who know Mr. Frederick H. A. Gerken could ask the question, "Why has he made a success?" His honesty, long training in the business and friendly and agreeable nature are all responsible for the fact that he carries on a weekly business in his Woodward Avenue store of over \$450.00.

Mr. Gerken was born in Achim, Hanover, April 3d, 1879, and came to America in 1893, settling in New York City. He married Miss Minnie D. Sieburg and their union has been blessed with a single child, Dorothy.

At the time when butchers were over-worked, Mr. Gerken helped to bring about the Sunday holiday for men in the meat business. With August Gerken, Mr. Frederick Gerken now has two stores, one in New York on Broadway, the other on Woodward Avenue, both carrying on a large business. His business policy is: "Fair dealing and quality above all."

**Matthew J. Reimann**

Matthew J. Reimann, the well-known candy manufacturer, who is winning distinction by the chain of candy stores that he is opening throughout the sec-

tion with uniform success, was born in Brooklyn, November 23, 1879.

He started in the candy business as a boy, beginning at a salary of \$4.00 a week. He applied himself diligently and by putting one dollar a week in the bank he succeeded in getting together \$78, and when this, to him at that time a large sum, was saved, he invested in a small store at 853 Gates Avenue, buying the place for \$25, in partnership with his brother. He started in to manufacture his own candy and ice cream with an old style hand machine after putting in a hard day's work in the factory of F. X. Kuchler and Son, where he learned to make the famous home-made taffies and other candies for which his stores have become noted.

After a year at Gates Avenue, he saw the big future of Ridgewood and moved his business to our section, opening up at 1299 Myrtle Avenue, near Cedar Street. Two years following he opened up a still larger business at 367 Knickerbocker Avenue, near Stockholm Street,

His success in this store led him to observe that there were other opportunities in Ridgewood for stores such as the one he had established. He opened an up-to-date store at 1323 Myrtle Avenue, which he afterwards sold, as well as his Knickerbocker Avenue store. He then opened another store at 198 Wyckoff Avenue, and in addition bought the building at 603 Woodward Avenue, Near Grove Street, which, by the way, was, up to a few years ago, the site on which the old wind mill stood that was a part of Schmidt's farm. He has made his candy and especially his taffies famous throughout the section. He is always on the lookout for good locations in order to fit up Reimann stores, and so far has opened up nine in the Greater Ridgewood section, all of which have proved a success.

### William C. Edwards

There is no one in our section who has attained so enviable a success at so young an age as Mr. Wm. C. Edwards, the owner of the Colonial Warehouse. He is only 27 years of age and is already one of the most prominent men in the moving van and warehouse business in Ridgewood, operating four large auto trucks, and a warehouse of 175 load capacity. The beautiful three-story brick warehouse on the corner of St. Nicholas and Gates avenues, built and owned by Mr. Edwards, attests his success in the warehouse business, and presages even greater success in the near future. The rapid strides which he has made in the last three years through untiring effort and a shrewd business sense could serve as an inspiration for many a young lad starting out in life.

Mr. Edwards was born in the vicinity of Greater Ridgewood and has lived here all his life. Recently he bought a home in Richmond Hill. Two years ago he married Marie Rose, a beautiful Brooklyn belle.

In all his business relations, Mr. Edwards has had very few setbacks of any kind, as his career has been running along very smoothly since his beginning about four years ago. Mr. Edwards' success is no doubt due mainly to his pleasing personality and upright business principles; but the hundreds of dollars' worth of advertising that he does in various forms (Red Book, thermometers and newspapers), account for no small part of the business which he carries on.

Next year Mr. Edwards expects to build another warehouse across the street on his own lot to accommodate his ever-increasing patronage.

Mr. Edwards enjoys the exclusive distinction of being the only man in his line in the section employing strictly union help.



MR. CHARLES SCHWAB

**Charles Schwab**

Charles Schwab, of 665 Seneca Avenue, was born in Germany, February 22, 1872. He came to Brooklyn when 12 years old and was compelled to go to work at a very early age. He was ambitious to make a man of himself and attended evening school classes for many years. He entered the employ of the Prudential Life Insurance Company when a young man and rose to occupy the position of Assistant Superintendent.

In 1895, he married Sophie Maas and by her had three children: one son and two daughters.

Three years ago he took over the establishment of which he is now proprietor, and under his management it has become very popular in the neighborhood in which it is located.

Mr. Schwab is a member of the Odd Fellows Maennerchor, Aurora Singing Society, Free Masons, and was formerly vice-president of the United Singers of Brooklyn. He belongs to many other organizations in Ridgewood and elsewhere.

**William C. Tiedemann**

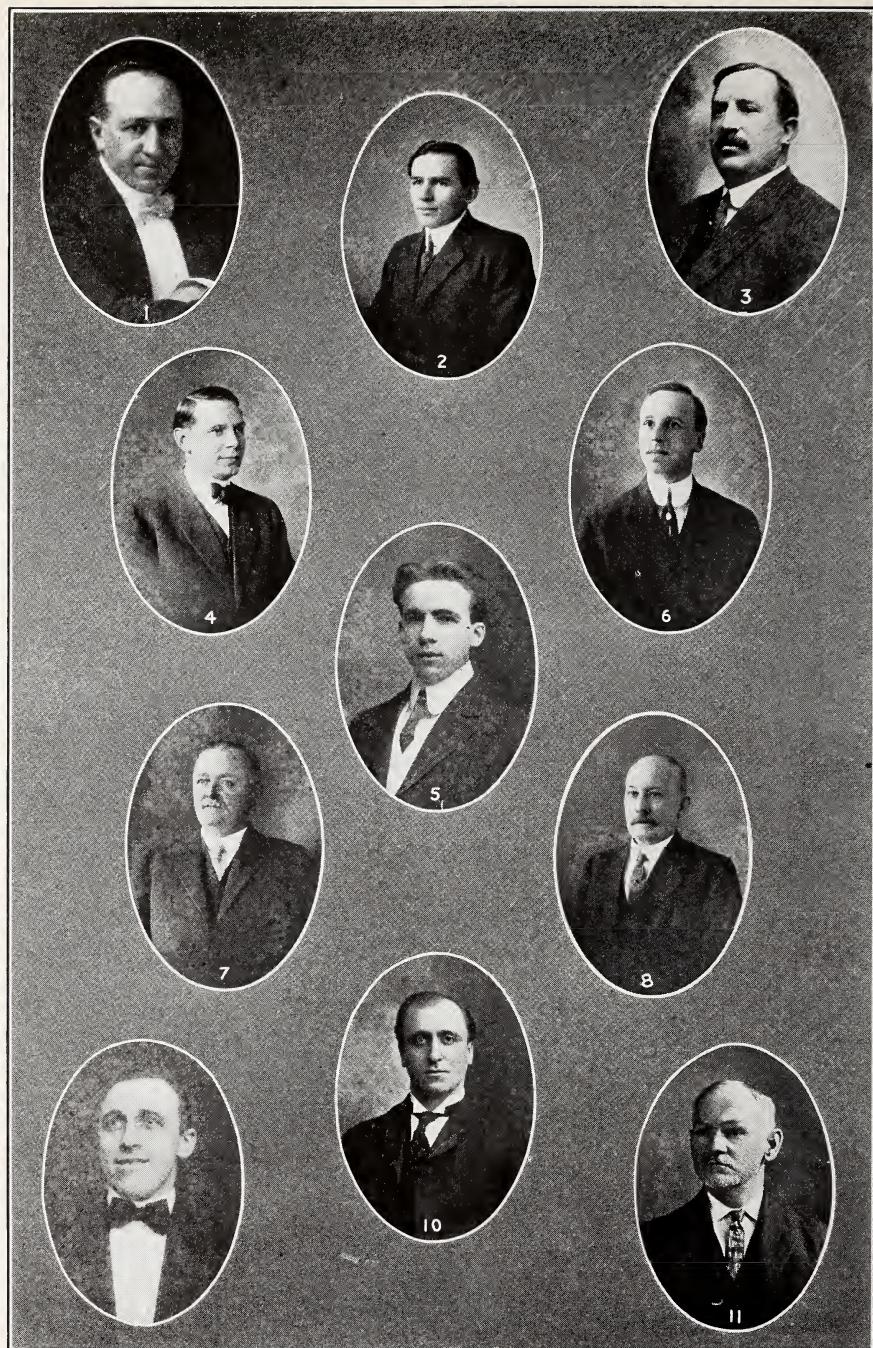
Mr. William C. Tiedemann, born in Hanover, Germany, September 29th, 1861, spent his early years as "Handwerksbursch." As apprentice to a master carpenter for three years he underwent many hardships, and then when he traveled through Mecklenburg and Northern Germany looking for work he suffered more than many an American young man is expected to undergo. He threw his little bag of wordly possessions on his back and without a penny walked across the Northern part of the Kingdom.

In 1881, he came to America and started as a carpenter. Five years ago he began to take building contracts and ever since he has made successful advances. He is one of our oldest residents and is a personal friend of the former Sheriff and many other men prominent in the section.

For twenty-three years Mr. Tiedemann worked for Hardy, Vorhis & Co. At present he is in business with his son on North Street.

**PART XIII**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTION**



PRESENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE RIDGEWOOD TIMES PRINTING  
AND PUBLISHING COMPANY

1—Louis Berger  
2—H. A. Waldman  
3—Frederick Exner  
4—Emil G. Raeder, D.D.S.

5—George Schubel  
6—Frederick Winter  
7—Paul Ajas  
8—Frederick Sprower

9—Harry A. Deppert  
10—Richard Weber  
11—Louis A. Richter

## CHAPTER XVII

### SUPPLEMENTARY INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

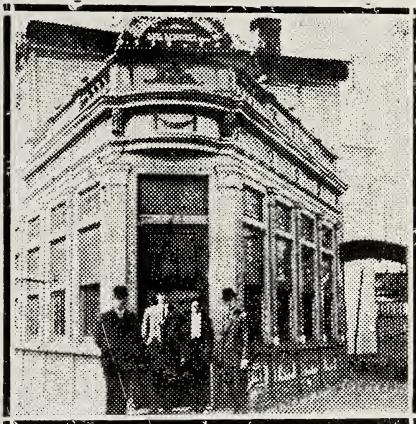
#### RIDGEWOOD TIMES

The following from the Ridgewood Times Anniversary Number, in reference to the founding of the Ridgewood Times, speaks for itself. We reprint it herewith:

"Every need, every want, is correspondingly answered by conditions that fulfill the wants and we reasonably can say that the Ridgewood Times received its birth when the need of a courageous and outspoken medium of expression was most felt in our section; when improvements were sorely needed; when local abuses existed and were tolerated because no means of redress was at hands and when reforms of a distinctly local nature were needed to be championed.

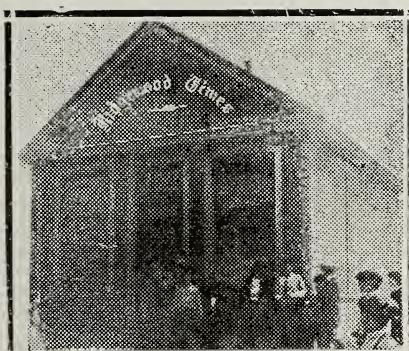
"In a strictly constructive way, there was need, too, for some form of expression that would voice the hopes and ideals of our wonderfully energetic and thrifty people who, during this upbuilding period, were creating, out of what a few years before had been nothing but farm land, a city in the very heart of the Greater City of New York.

"Insofar as the daily papers were con-



SECOND HOME OF RIDGEWOOD TIMES  
Myrtle and St. Nicholas Avenues

cerned, Ridgewood and its immediate vicinity was not even so much as on the map! The Metropolitan papers hardly, if ever, gave attention to the happenings that transpired here and it was a standing jest, prior to the advent of the Ridgewood Times, that the officials at Long Island City could never intelligently talk with local committees from our section without first having recourse to a map to find out just where Ridgewood was located. It was only after the Ridgewood Times entered the field and adopted what some of our conservative friends have always felt to have been an extremely radical attitude, but which was simply a studied policy of forcibly bringing our section and its needs to the attention of those whom it was necessary to impress, that our section became



FIRST HOME OF RIDGEWOOD TIMES  
1908

At Myrtle and Irving Avenues



SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL EMPLOYEES OF THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT

1—Charles Schlaepfer  
(Staff Artist)

2—John Dutting  
(Asst. Foreman)

3—Steven Sivyour  
(Job Department)

4—James T. DuBois  
(Foreman)

5—Charles Fee  
(Monotype Operator)

6—Alfred Heritage  
(Compositor)

known and recognized, and that the slogan of "Greater Ridgewood," now a term used all over the city in referring to our section, and first conceived and used in the "Times," is now a reality, being ample demonstration of the effectiveness of the booming that the Ridgewood Times did at that time.

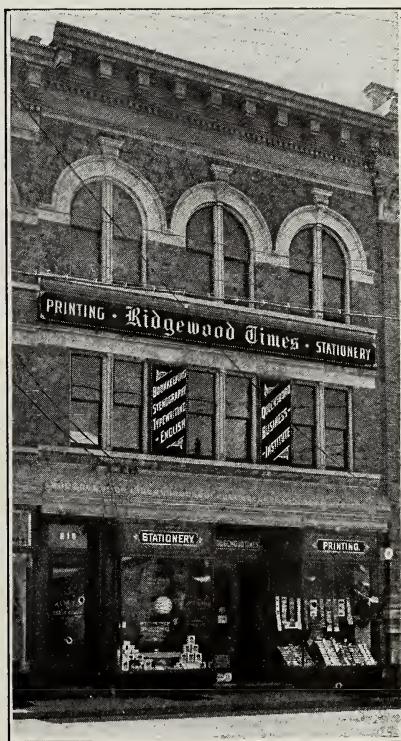
"Other papers, to be sure, had been established previous to the launching of the Ridgewood Times, but usually by some printer who presumed to divide his time between kicking a slow-moving press in the shop and soliciting advertising for his paper in his spare time, with the result that neither was done well, and the higher, nobler, ethical significance that is and should be attached to the establishment of a newspaper and justify its existence, was conspicuously absent. It is needless to say that all of these ventures failed.

"The Ridgewood Times was founded in the fall of 1908, and incorporated the same month under the corporation name of the Ridgewood Times Publishing Company, the following being its incorporators: George Schubel, Jacob Krauth and Lena Krauth. One of the unique features connected with the incorporation was the purpose to make the company a co-operative one. Mr. Schubel had for many years cherished the hope that he would some day be able to carry out his belief in the principle of human co-operation by establishing a newspaper business of which the people would be, to a large extent, the owners.

"The wisdom of this step was shown, not only in the fact that the paper was in this wise placed in the hands of the people of the section for whom it was established and forever out of the possible influence of political parties and politicians, but it also placed the paper in an invulnerable business position, which was most effectively demonstrated later when efforts were made by political

interests and individuals who could not sway the paper, to secure an origin of their own and at the same time secure part of the lucrative business that the newspaper had worked up in the section.

"The honor of being the first subscriber to the stock of the Ridgewood Times is held by Mr. Carl Berger, ex-Superintendent of Buildings of Queens, whose faith in the venture and whose interest in those early days will always be viewed with a sense of gratitude by its founder, as in the instance of all those early other stockholders who took an interest in the launching of the Ridgewood Times. The financial assistance rendered in a



PRESENT HOME OF THE RIDGEWOOD TIMES

Times Building. Cypress and Myrtle Avenues

personal way by Mr. and Mrs. Anton Eilers at a time when the quick expansion of the business demanded better facilities for handling it also served as a great help.

"Mr. Charles Pfitzenreuter and Mr. Valentine Hanold served as the first advertising representatives of the paper and due credit will always be attached to their work in connection with the first early struggles of the paper.

"The first office of the Ridgewood Times was located at Myrtle and Irving Avenues. Shortly after it was moved to Myrtle and St. Nicholas Avenues, and in 1910 to its present home.

"The business prospered and in 1910 reached the large proportions where a modern printing plant and building was found to be absolutely necessary. The Company was re-incorporated for \$40,000 under the firm name of Ridgewood Times Printing and Publishing Company, absorbing the Ridgewood Times Publishing Company and the Observer Press.

"Some of the most prominent local business men, such as Mr. Louis Berger, Dr. Emil G. Raeder, Frederick Sprower, August Bauer, Richard Weber, Paul Ajas, Frederick Exner and Louis Richter, now became interested with Mr. Schubel, and in October, 1910, the present Times office building and printing plant at Myrtle and Cypress Avenues were opened for business.

"From the very beginning it was sought to make the Ridgewood Times the best edited and best printed local weekly of any in the country, and in order to do this, it was necessary to lay out a printing plant and perfect an organization of the best kind. As soon as the firm's own printing plant was installed in October, 1910, Mr. Harry Deppert and Mr. Harry A. Waldman, both of whom are now directors of the concern, were

assigned to this task, and that an ideal paper from a typographical standpoint has been attained in the production of the Ridgewood Times, as well as in the Mid-Week Review, is shown in the general commendation and praise given these two papers throughout the printing trade. The high standard is being continued by Mr. James DuBois, the present foreman; John Dutting, Harry Deppert, Charles Fee, monotype operator; George Nealon, Stephen Sivyour, Alfred Heritage, S. Daycoupay and George Schwab, who started with the company as the first office boy, and Miss Ida Lang in charge of the business office. Most of the employees are stockholders and this accounts for the harmony and spirit of co-operation that exists in every department.

"The Ridgewood Times has prospered wonderfully in the five years of its existence. It has succeeded both from a material and ethical standpoint.

"It began with the high aim of performing a distinct service for the section in which it was established, assisting the big work of upbuilding at a time when the section needed this service most and that this service was appreciated is seen in the immense popularity that the paper has attained.

"The administrative staff as composed at present is: George Schubel, chief executive; Harry Waldman, manager; with a Board of Directors composed of the following: Mr. George Schubel, president; Dr. Emil G. Raeder, first vice-president; Frederick Sprower, second vice-president; Louis A. Richter, treasurer; Harry Deppert, assistant treasurer; Harry A. Waldman, secretary; Richard Weber, Frederick Exner, Louis Berger, William R. Keese, Paul A. Ajas and Charles Schlaepfer."

**Glueck and Einsettler**

The splendid business that Glueck and Einsettler have established is a credit to the section in which they have located. As recently as September, 1914, extensive alterations were made and a dining room equipped that is second to none in the entire section. The lodge rooms located in the upper part of the building are in great demand and the entire building has become a social center of a refined and high-class order.

Francis Eugene Einsettler, senior partner, was born in Brooklyn in 1880 and came into our section in 1907, locating, in partnership with Mr. Glueck, at the corner of Bleecker Street and Myrtle Avenue. In the same year he married Emma Wagner and by her has two daughters: Evelyn and Marie. He is a member of F. & A. M., Oltman Lodge No. 446, Progressive Chapter No. 198, DeWitt Commandery No. 27, Kismet Temple, Mystic Shriners, and Montauk Tribe, I. O. R. M., No. 198.

Herman Glueck was born in Kleinens-tinger, Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1882, and came to America in 1896. In 1901, he married Maria Elizabeth Einsettler, by whom he has one child, Herman George.

Previous to entering the partnership with Mr. Einsettler, he was associated with Mr. Einsettler's father for five years in lower Broadway, Brooklyn. He is a member of Schwaebischer Saengerbund, Oriental Bowling Club, I. O. R. M., Montauk Tribe No. 198, and the Irving Benevolent Association.

**J. Geo. Grauer Ice Plant**

The ice plant owned by the estate of J. George Grauer, on Willow Street, is one of the most up-to-date and modern installations to be found anywhere in the city, occupying as it does about 261 feet of ground on Willow Street and extending back a distance of 100 feet and including a modern Freezing Tank, Ice Storage House, with capacity of 2,000 cakes on hand daily during Summer months, Ice Machine House, Boiler House and outhouses and sheds.

The plant was started in a small way by J. George Grauer with an original capacity of sixty tons daily. In 1908, Mr. George W. Hudtwalker, who is comparatively a young man as compared with most of our successful business men, became manager of the plant at the same time that he assumed charge of the brewery, and after Mr. Grauer's death, he came in full charge.

The selling of the Grauer Brewery in 1910 enabled Mr. Hudtwalker to give all his attention to the ice plant. The old buildings were demolished and a concrete and steel structure supplanted it with machinery for supplying the necessary electric power. Heavier machinery was also installed for refrigeration and the plant now has an output of 165 tons daily, with a capacity of 540 tons, a provision made to meet future demands of growth. It is due to the enterprise and efficiency of Mr. Hudtwalker that the plant has grown to its present large proportions and it is expected that under his continued guidance the plant will become one of the largest, if not the largest, ice plants in the city.

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